

AN: *Halo*, everyone! Here is the beginning of a fantastical tale starring all of your favorite *TLKA* characters! Just as TPYMK's *Poison* combined *The Lion King* with the detective/drug genre to magnificent effect, I shall be combining our favorite fanfics with another genre: the jungle adventure/dinosaur genre. So, without further ado, I present to you...*The Island!*

The Island

Chapter One: Wikitravel

"May I speak to a real lion, please?"

A beautiful, slender lioness cub with creamy fur and aqua-colored eyes sat at the marble kitchen counter inside her house as she held a telephone in her left paw, the claws of her right paw clicking on the counter.

A lioness with a European accent soon answered. "This is Maji. Hold for an important message."

The cub, however, had no intention of holding for a message. "No! You listen to me! You've called us sixty times in the past month! Do you realize how obnoxious that ad of yours is? Who wants to hear some ship captain nattering away with a foghorn going off in the background? And there's no way that there would ever be a free all-inclusive cruise to the Bahamas!"

"Please, settle down, miss..." Maji intoned.

"I will not settle down!" the cub cried. "You've been invading our privacy for far too long! How many times do I have to tell you? *We're not interested!* I've lost count of how many times I've tried to be civil with you, because it obviously hasn't worked."

"Please, we can talk this out," Maji nervously chuckled.

"There's nothing to talk about!" the cub shouted, having clearly lost all patience with the annoying telemarketer. "Take us off your list right now! Stop calling us! Leave us alone! And you can

take your stupid foghorn with you!"

Without another word, the angry young lioness slammed the phone back onto the counter. She then put a paw to her head, groaning.

At that moment, a male cub with golden fur and handsome features sauntered in, an enthusiastic smile on his face. "Whoa! Go Nala!"

Nala turned to face her golden-furred companion. "You heard all of that, Simba?"

"Of course I did," Simba responded. "You were awesome! I think we can say those guys won't be calling us again."

"So, speaking of vacations..." Nala purred as she jumped off the counter and walked towards Simba, "did you find a good destination for our honeymoon?"

"As a matter of fact, I did!" he smiled. "Come into the back room. I think you'll like this..."

"Are you ready, Nala?"

Simba and Nala were now in the back room, and the golden cub stood proudly in front of the computer, his paws obscuring the screen.

"I'm ready!" Nala smiled.

"Here we go!" Simba cried. "May I present to you...our destination!"

As he said this, he moved his paws away with a flourish, and it took a second for Nala to register what was displayed on the glowing computer screen.

A web page with a white color scheme and a "Wikitravel" logo in the upper left corner displayed an article with a photograph of a lush jungle and a name at the very top.

Kadalo Island.

"What is this place?" Nala asked.

"I only just found out about it," Simba explained. "I'm surprised a site like this would even have it on here."

"Have you read the article? What makes it such a cool place?"

"Well, listen to this," Simba smiled. He then began reading.

"Kadalo Island is located in southern Indonesia, specifically in the Banda Sea southeast of Sulawesi. It is home to a number of species found nowhere else on Earth, including a thriving population of *Allosaurus*, a dinosaur long believed to be extinct."

"What?" Nala could only gasp in amazement.

It was not in any way a surprise to her that Simba wanted to go to this island. He was the bravest and most adventurous cub she had ever known, which was one of the many reasons they had fallen in love and, as of two days beforehand, gotten married. At that time, they had not been able to answer the constant questions of where they would be going for their honeymoon, for the simple reason that they did not know. Unlike most couples, they had decided to wait until after their wedding to find a good vacation site.

"Where are you going for your honeymoon?" Simba's friend Chumvi asked.

"We have no idea," Simba responded. "We're going to plan it out over the next few days."

"That isn't how most lions do it."

"No, but we aren't most lions."

And thus the two cubs were now sitting there, reading the article, and absorbing its contents.

"Besides the dinosaurs, other animals to be wary of include

tigers, leopards, crocodiles, poisonous snakes and spiders, and wild pigs," Simba read.

"This definitely sounds like your kind of place," Nala observed.

"The marine environment is exceptionally rich," Simba continued, "and is marked by an abundance of coral reefs, and marine fauna includes over 1,000 species of bony fishes, sharks and rays, sea turtles, whales and dolphins."

"Wow..." Nala sighed. "It sounds beautiful."

"Of course it will be!" Simba cried. "But not as much as—"

"Don't even go there, Simba," Nala smirked.

"Would you like to take over?" Simba asked. "My throat's a little dry."

The golden-furred cub grabbed a bottle of water as Nala sat down and began to read.

"Okay, let's see...It says that visitors are delivered to the island on small vessels since there isn't a port, and the drop-off occurs once per week. Ferries will be suspended in the event of bad weather, and one boat is said to have been wrecked in a storm."

"That's a little concerning..." Simba commented.

"These fees are ridiculous," Nala gasped. "We're lucky we have the kind of money we do."

"Didn't I tell you advertising that Adventure Kids Cereal was a good idea?"

"Yes, you did. Anyway, it says we have to walk everywhere on the island, and the site recommends hats and sunglasses when walking in the interior."

"We look pretty good in hats and sunglasses," Simba smiled. "Remember our trip to the Grand Canyon?"

"Yep. You almost fell off the rim," Nala commented.

"Says the girl who wanted to feed the squirrel because of *how cute it was*," Simba smirked in a playfully mocking tone.

"Okay, let's get back to this."

"What else does it say?"

"Well," Nala continued, "it says, 'The main reasons to travel to Kadalo Island are the live dinosaurs, the beaches and the rich coral reefs.' It says to keep in mind that various other animals also reside on the island, and it says you can view flocks of Pteranodons at sunset."

"That is awesome!" Simba grinned.

"I have to admit, this sounds pretty cool," Nala conceded. She continued to read on.

"Tour guides are available, and self-guided tours are not permitted, due to the dangerous natures of the dinosaurs and other beasts. You may swim in the sea, but beware of sharp corals and venomous animals such as eels and jellies."

"This is getting better with every word!" Simba smiled.

"It says there's a limited selection of food, but the prices are pretty cheap by our standards, so that's good. Do not drink the tap water under any circumstances, and be sure to buy bottled water before setting off into the jungle."

"Will do," Simba nodded.

"Okay, here's the part you'll like," Nala observed. She then continued reading.

"The Allosaurus has a history of attacking tourists. Stick close to your guide and do not do anything without his consent."

"Oh, man..." Simba moaned. He could just picture the guide in his head. He would probably be some old lion with a weird accent and harsh attitude, or maybe a crazy monkey with a stick...

"Come on, it won't be that bad," Nala reassured him. "You're the one that found this place."

"I want to hear more about the dinosaurs!"

"Well..." "In the event that the dinosaurs visit the guest area, head for an elevated building and avoid the railings. Your guide will make an attempt to drive them away."

"I want to see lions fighting dinosaurs!" Simba smiled.

"It says they run extremely quickly, and running into the water won't work because they are capable of swimming in shallow water, and also due to the presence of other dangerous animals in the rivers and swamps of the island."

"Well, what are we waiting for?" Simba asked. "Let's book this trip now!"

"We have a lot of things to consider, Simba..."

"It's the thrill of a lifetime! This will be a great honeymoon!"

"If you say so," Nala purred.

"Let's find a travel agent. I bet this trip is to die for!"

AN: And thus our dino-thriller begins. Hey, maybe that can be my signature term for works I do along these lines, like "Dynamation" back in the 1960s. Anyway, come back to see if Simba and Nala can successfully book their trip!

AN: Hello again! Here for your entertainment is the next chapter of *The Island*. Let's see if Simba and Nala can successfully book their trip...

The Island

Chapter Two: Travel Agent

"Now which agency should we use?" Nala asked herself as she

thoroughly checked the Internet for a helpful travel agent.

"How about this one?" Simba asked. "Hekima Agencies...'Ensures speedy service and satisfaction.'"

"Or this one," Nala countered. "Flat Lands Agencies...nah."

"Travelcub.com?" Simba offered. "It sounds like they'd be good."

"Oh, this one will work!" Nala cried, pointing to the page she now had on the screen.

"Kazi Agencies..." Simba read. "What's so special about them?"

"It says that it's the most informative agency, and since it's a freelance, it might not be as expensive."

"This guy looks kind of arrogant," Simba frowned. The photo on the webpage showed a thin cub with golden fur and an equally golden tuft, as well as a decidedly above-it-all expression.

"Like you're one to talk," Nala replied.

"I may be cocky, but that's not the same," Simba explained.

"Well, let's just call the guy. It seems like he'll be pretty helpful."

"Hello? Is this Kazi Agencies?" Nala asked, holding the telephone in her paw, and utilizing the "speakerphone" feature so Simba could chime in if necessary.

"My name is Kazi," a voice replied from the other line. "I am here to assist you with preparations for the necessary bookings with which to facilitate the enjoyability of your sojourn."

"What's with this guy?" Simba asked himself.

"We are fully committed to ensuring that you shall experience the most enriching vacation possible, and we at Kazi Agencies offer top-notch services impossible to find anywhere else."

"Knew it," Simba muttered. "This guy is utterly full of himself."

"Simba, be quiet," Nala frowned, and resumed talking to Kazi. "So let's start talking business. What is the best route to Kadalo Island?"

"Kadalo Island?" Kazi asked, astonished. On one paw, he was extremely surprised that he was being asked to help someone with that particular destination, but on the other paw, he knew that anyone wishing to go there had plenty of money on hand...

"Well...." Kazi smiled, "we can help you book a flight on Jowai Airlines at your local airport, for which I will exact a small compensation."

"You mean money?" Simba asked.

"Of course," Kazi confirmed.

"How much?" Nala inquired.

"\$640 at the very least," the travel agent replied.

"That's ridiculous," Nala frowned. "Normally you're only supposed to charge \$10-150 dollars for flights."

"Such cheap variance is not to be found here," Kazi insisted. "You have a choice: Either find a cheaper agency and end up ill-informed and unprepared, or remain with me, receive all the necessary information on this particular destination, and comply with my fees."

"Fine," Nala sighed.

"That's better," Kazi chuckled. "Now, we can arrange for you to take the 10:00 flight on Wednesday, which will take roughly a day or so in total, and considering time zones, it may be even longer."

"Okay," Nala nodded.

"We can check you in at the Grand Lands Motel on the Sulawesi coast, for which I shall charge you \$570 dollars."

"Do you know how bad you are at this?" Simba asked as he read a magazine on the couch. "Nala, tell him what the actual price should be."

"Ordinarily, we should only have to pay \$10 bucks for hotels, or that \$100-150 consulting fee, which can be waived if we book flights and hotels together, which of course is exactly what we're doing."

"But that is irrelevant," Kazi pointed out. "You have selected me to assist in organizing your vacation, and thus any dispute over my prices is invalid."

"Says you," Simba muttered, scowling.

"Non-compliant customers have always been quick to learn that I am set in my ways," Kazi bragged.

"We can tell," Simba smirked. As irritating as he was, Kazi's arrogance certainly provided a target for Simba to mock...

"Sarcastic remarks will not prove to be of any benefit to you," Kazi said. "Either stick with my prices, or don't go on this trip."

"Okay, what's your final offer?" Nala asked, exhausted from dealing with both her husband and the irritating agent.

"Well," Kazi began, "in the interests of benefitting both parties satisfactorily, and ensuring that everyone walks away smiling, we shall resort to discussing the exact nature of the—"

"Get to the point!" Simba growled through clenched teeth. "We haven't got all day!"

"In that case," Kazi sighed, "I am charging a final price of \$1515, which consists of the main price of \$1210 plus an extra \$305 for having to put up with you."

"What?" Simba growled, having lost all patience with the arrogant cub.

"Can we lower that to \$1305?" Nala asked.

"Make it \$1313 and you have a deal."

"All right then," the girl cub sighed, seeing no way out of this.
"We'll give you \$1313."

"Perfect!" Kazi smiled. "It was a pleasure doing business with you."

With that, the travel agent hung up, and Simba and Nala smiled.

They were going to Kadalo.

AN: That was a funny chapter, eh? I hope you liked it! Tune in next week for the true beginning of the adventure!

AN: Hello again! Now that Simba and Nala have successfully booked their trip, it's time for them to embark on their journey. This is a nice long chapter, so get extra comfortable. You'll see quite a few familiar faces here...

The Island

Chapter Three: Jowai Airlines

It was now Tuesday night, and Nala was finishing packing her suitcase. Simba was lying on his back on the bed, with most of his small body touching the pillow, his arms folded behind his head as he wore a cheeky smile. His fully packed suitcase sat next to him.

"Just what are you packing?" he asked. "That seems like a lot of stuff."

"I've got guidebooks, water bottles, personal hygiene items..."

Simba was not surprised by this last bit in the slightest. She had always been very careful about staying clean, something that could not be said for himself...

"Simba," Nala began, "I know this might be too much to ask, but...could you please take a shower tonight?"

"What?" Simba asked, his eyes widening.

"Please take one. We're going out in public tomorrow, and we're going to be spending a lot of time in the hot jungle once we get to Kadalo."

"But—"

"Do I have to drag you into the tub and scrub you with a leaf?"

"No..." Simba sighed. He got up, jumped off the bed, and walked out of the room before turning and looking back at her with puppy-dog eyes.

"That won't work, Simba," Nala firmly stated. "I'll give you a five-minute kiss when you come out!"

"Fine," Simba groaned as he walked in.

As the showerhead ran over Simba, the cub reluctantly soaped himself up, groaning and growling as he did so.

"How can anybody actually *enjoy* this?" he asked himself. This was a task he had always loathed...

"She's your wife, Simba," he reasoned with himself. "You don't want to end up like that one boyfriend she had...What was his name? Shocker? Yeah..."

Another realization then dawned on Simba.

"Again, she's my wife. I'd do anything for her."

The golden cub continued to scrub himself, wishing this could be over...

Nala sat on the bed, waiting for Simba, when the door finally creaked open. Nala's eyes widened at Simba.

"Simba! Look at you! You look so nice and clean! I really, really want to kiss you!"

Simba rolled his eyes, and then smiled as Nala did indeed kiss

him.

"And tomorrow, you get your real reward—the trip to the island!"

It was now the next morning as the little tan car pulled up to the airport and into the overcrowded parking lot. Finally, the two cubs stepped out of the car.

"You ready, Simba?"

"You bet I am!"

Inside the airport, the cubs were sitting in the waiting area along with many other animals.

"I'm just glad we're past the TSA," Nala smiled.

"Those stupid hyenas have no respect," Simba growled. "Talk about rude..."

"Yeah. I'd rather not have some girl hyena with the worst bangs in history putting her paws all over me."

"What about the one that inspected me? 'Hey man, we gotta pull you over, man. We gotta check that you don't have any dangerous stuff on the plane, man.' Jeez, I would rather have had the one with the lolling tongue. At least he didn't talk..."

The two sat in silence, and then a lioness began talking over the intercom.

"Passengers, please go to terminal 13 for the 10:00 Jowai Airlines flight to Sulawesi."

Simba and Nala smiled at each other. It was time.

As Simba and Nala began boarding the plane, they took the time to admire its splendor. It was a magnificent shining white, with the name "JOWAI" written across its side, and the tail featured a painting of a lush green jungle and a beautiful

lioness with a flower tucked behind her ear.

"Here we go!" Simba smiled. "Kadalo, here we come!"

"But Tama, it's too heavy!"

"Shut up, Tojo! Just lift the darned thing!"

Two cubs already on the plane were attempting to place their extremely heavy suitcase above their seats. Tojo, the male, had light brown fur and blue eyes, and his companion, Tama, had greyish-tan fur, a tuft on her head, and orange eyes. It was immediately obvious that Tojo had nowhere near the strength needed for the task, and even Tama couldn't do much...

"Yo! Need help there?"

As Simba and Nala entered the cabin, they immediately saw just who had come to Tama and Tojo's aid.

It was none other than Sarafina, a celebrity actress renowned for her beauty and talent, as well as her sharp tongue. She was the embodiment of beauty, and bore a stunning resemblance to an adult version of Nala.

"She looks...like you," Simba whispered.

"You love me, though, right?" Nala asked.

"Of course."

Sarafina then placed her paws on the heavy suitcase. "I'm gonna help you here, okay?"

Tama and Tojo nodded eagerly, desperate for help and in awe of the helpful actress.

"Here you go," Sarafina smiled as she shoved the suitcase into its designated spot, then turned to look at the happy cubs.

"Thank you, Sarafina!" Tojo grinned.

"I can only hope you don't want my autograph...My little piggies

are tired, yo."

Despite her status as a glamorous starlet, Sarafina was known for a decidedly informal way of speaking, as well as a tough attitude that ensured no one took her for a pushover.

"That's okay," Tojo continued. "Maybe we can do it right before we get off the plane. This flight will last a full day, you know."

"Okay," Sarafina smiled before walking along. As she walked, she came across Simba and Nala. "Hey! How's it hangin'?"

"We're going to Kadalo Island for our honeymoon," Simba smiled.

"We're going there too!" Sarafina grinned. "How awesome is that?"

"Who's 'we?'" Nala asked.

"My boyfriend," Sarafina explained. "He's a film critic."

"Oh," Simba and Nala nodded.

"I better go join him," Sarafina explained before walking away.

As Sarafina wandered down the aisle, a voice stopped her in her tracks.

"Hey baby!"

Sarafina looked to her left, and discovered a thin chocolate brown cub with blue eyes sitting in his seat. He had a smug, self-satisfied smirk on his face, and it was clear that he hadn't bothered to groom himself in weeks, perhaps even months. He had the look of total scum. He patted the empty seat next to him as he grinned at Sarafina.

"Wanna fly high with Air Moto?"

Sarafina snarled at the cub. "Screw you."

"Hey, come on! I'm just trying to—"

Before Moto could finish his sentence, a bony red arm came from the seat behind him, claws unsheathed, and with a tuft of jet-black fur at the elbow. The arm stuck a claw to Moto's throat as its owner began to speak.

"Now, now, Moto," the lion smiled in a deep, suave voice, "we don't want to get ourselves thrown off the airplane, do we?"

Moto looked up at the lion, who stared down at him. The lion had a body even thinner than his own, a slick black mane, well-groomed fur, green eyes—one of which had a pink slash over it—and a sinister smile that sent chills down the cub's little spine.

"Hey! Hey! Not cool, man! Who the heck are you?"

The lion's smile only became wider, and nastier.. "My name is Scar. You will learn to fear it."

Scar then removed his claw, leaving Moto clutching his throat in terror, while Scar applied hand sanitizer to his paws.

"Got to remove any potential germs," he muttered to himself. "I'm willing to bet that smug little brat is absolutely infested with pathogens..."

"Applying more of that hand sanitizer, bud?" Sarafina asked as she sat down next to Scar. "I think that little creep will take the top spot on my Loser List."

A deep yet cheery male voice immediately broke over the intercom. "Hello, this is your captain speaking. Welcome to Jowai Airlines. I'm Hapana, your captain. Before we take off, our lovely flight attendants will guide you through our safety instructions."

A group of stunning lionesses appeared, ready to demonstrate the safety procedures.

"First, make sure you have buckled your seat belt."

The lionesses held seat belts and demonstrated how they were meant to be buckled.

"Second, be sure that you can access at least one emergency exit."

Each lioness pointed to whichever exit happened to be closest.

"Next, you'll want to..."

The plane was now cruising through the air, and was well on its way.

One of the flight attendants stopped by Sarafina and Scar, and asked, "What would you like?"

"You got some of those killer Cheetos, man?"

"Indeed we do," the attendant smiled, handing the Cheetos to Sarafina.

"Me likey!" Sarafina grinned.

"What about you, sir?" the attendant asked Scar.

The lanky lion looked up from his book, titled *Lowbrow Films*, and smiled, "I'd like a glass of water, thank you."

The attendant complied, and then walked to the next seat—Moto.

"Yo, baby! Can you get me a basket full of fries? I need something to, like, eat...and stuff."

The attendant scowled at Moto, but gave him his fries anyhow. He then wolfed them down as she continued to the next row, where Simba and Nala were.

"I'd like a bowl of fruit," Nala smiled. Simba looked sick upon the mention of the word...

"I'll just have water, thanks."

The cubs then turned their attention back to the in-flight movie, *The Hermit*, about a giant eagle.

"Any film that excites audiences and actually entertains them is

rubbish," Scar snarled. "Films should be art, not mindless brain-killers. A film is only good if it bores average simpleton audiences, is much longer than necessary, talks about serious issues, and tries to make everyone feel guilty about themselves."

Simba rose up and turned back to face Scar, snarling, "Shut up back there! We're trying to watch the movie!"

"Yeah! Don't disrupt our viewing, yo!" Moto chimed in.

Simba and Nala continued to watch the movie, but Moto soon leaned in so that he was directly behind Simba and Nala.

"Hey baby," he whispered to Nala, "could you get your cub to switch seats with me?"

Nala quickly backhanded the cub, sending him sprawling. Simba turned around and looked at Moto, frowning at him, before returning his focus to the movie.

"See why I asked you to shower last night?"

Many hours passed, and now the plane was flying through a serene moonlight sky.

"Yawn...If you're still awake, look out your window to see if you can spot the beautiful, serene waters of the nighttime Pacific," Hapana suggested over the intercom.

Simba and Nala looked out the window, and they could see that it was indeed shimmering and shining, and an extremely beautiful sight.

More hours passed, and soon the sun was up once more. Simba and Nala smiled at each other, and gave each other a morning kiss.

"We'll be landing in approximately three hours," Hapana smiled.

"You looking forward to Indonesia, Nala?"

"Do I really have to answer that?"

They kissed again, and Moto scoffed.

Soon enough, the plane began to descend, and Simba and Nala watched the descent.

"This is really cool!" Simba exclaimed.

Eventually, the plane landed, and everything came to a stop.

"We hoped you enjoyed your flight," Hapana declared. "Thank you for flying Jowai Airlines."

Inside the Grand Lands Motel, Simba and Nala were at the front desk, speaking with a lioness with tanned fur and bright green eyes. A name tag with the name "Amri" sat in front of her on the desk.

"We can check you in with Room 28, which will cost you \$10 a night."

"Okay," Nala smiled. This hotel was much more reasonable than that little rat Kazi...

"Thank you!" She called again before walking towards the room with Simba.

That evening, the two cubs stood on the balcony outside their bedroom, overlooking the radiant sunset over the calm, soothing sea.

"This is a great honeymoon so far," Nala smiled.

"Even with the TSA, Scar, and that little punk behind us?"

"Yeah."

"Do we have everything arranged for the boat?"

"Yep. I took care of that while you were out getting us that great seafood dinner."

"Awesome!" Simba cried. "What time do we have to be down there?"

"9:30," Nala answered.

"Well, that'll give us some time," Simba smiled. "I mean, the dock's only about ten minutes away from here."

"Yep. And then we'll be off on the adventure of a lifetime."

"Yes we will," Simba smiled as he snuggled up to Nala, his head on her shoulder and their tails entwined. "Yes we will be."

AN: Well, they're finally in Indonesia. That's nice, don't you think? Anyway, I hope you enjoyed this chapter. I spent pretty much all of yesterday writing it. I couldn't resist that little callback to *TLKT* in the earliest scenes...not to mention my ability to bash uber-pretentious film critics with the Scar character. Also, I shall give credit to TPYMK for the "killer Cheetos" line. At any rate, come back next week to see our favorite characters head to the dock and sail off to Kadalo!

AN: Hello yet again! I'm very glad you're all enjoying this story so far. Several fan favorites returned in last week's chapter, and now you'll get to see even more!

The Island

Chapter Four: Boat Ride

When Simba opened his eyes, he looked around and saw that the sun had fully risen. Nala was already out of bed, and the clock read 8:05.

Perfect, Simba thought.

"Simba, why don't you get out of bed?" Nala asked. "I know we have a while, but why don't we spend that time looking out over the balcony like last night?"

"Okay." Simba then slowly rolled out of bed, not bothering to fix

the covers. He then padded over towards Nala. "What are we going to eat before we go?"

"I made sure to have somebody bring it up to us," Nala answered.

"Thanks." Simba grinned. He was very lucky to have Nala...

"No problem."

Time flew by, and very soon it was approaching 9:20, the time that they would have to head to the dock in order to not miss the boat's departure.

"Well, this is it," Simba declared. "It's time to embark on an adventure!"

With that, the two cubs walked out the door, and checked out of the hotel.

The dock was busy with activity, as tourists strolled through, fishermen gutted their fish, and souvenir shop owners tried desperately to sell their products. The waves rolled slowly as the palms swayed in the breeze, and Simba and Nala watched all of this with awe as they attempted to find the boat.

"Isn't it beautiful, Simba?"

"Yep!"

"So, where do you think our boat is?"

"Right over there." Simba pointed a claw straight ahead, and Nala looked.

Gathered at the dock was a large throng of tourists, including Tama, Tojo, Sarafina, Scar, and Moto, among several others whom they did not recognize. In the water below was a magnificent blue and white sailboat with blue sails constructed out of wood. The name *Adventure Queen* was printed on its side in gold letters.

Simba and Nala then walked towards the rest of the crowd, standing next to them while waiting for the captain to emerge from below deck.

"Hey, it's great to see you again, yo!" Sarafina cried upon seeing Simba and Nala again. "We'll be going together! Isn't that awesome?"

"Yeah!" Simba and Nala cried.

"Glad you could join us." Scar grinned as always.

Simba noticed a pair of hornbills talking to one another. The cub decided to approach them.

"Hi guys!" The cub greeted the birds. They smiled in return. "I'm Simba."

"My name is Zazu," the male bird responded, "and this is my mate Pori. We have come to the island to celebrate an anniversary. We've had many—I won't tell you the exact number—and this year we decided to come here."

"Cool!"

"It's pleasant to see cubs here," the bird observed, smiling. "I used to not be too fond of cubs, but over time my attitude has softened."

"I've always been fond of cubs, Zebu!" Pori chirped. "They're so cute and fuzzy!"

She pinched Simba's cheek with a talon, and the cub groaned. He was a married cub, and he was still being treated like a baby?

"Even after all these years, she still occasionally forgets my name," Zazu sighed. "But we love each other, make no mistake about it."

"I know the feeling," Simba said. He then sauntered back over to Nala.

"Have they said when the captain's gonna show up?" Simba asked.

"Nope. The other guys will have to come and open up the ramp so we can board the boat."

"It's all a matter of physics," said a voice from behind them. The two cubs turned around to behold a lion with golden-brown fur, a red mane, and a white lab coat.

"Who are you?" Simba asked.

"Oh, I'm sorry," the lion said. "Allow me to introduce myself. I am Professor Wazimu Mwanasayanzi, but you can just call me Wazimu. And what are your names?"

"I'm Simba!"

"And I'm Nala."

"Pleased to meet you, Simba and Nala!" the aged lion declared. "Am I correct in presuming you two are tourists?"

"Yep!" Simba answered. "And we're proud of it!"

"I am a scientist," Wazimu explained. "This will be my first time studying the unique and fascinating fauna of Kadalo Island."

"That must be pretty exciting for you," Nala mused.

"It most certainly is. And I'm sure it is for you as well!"

Before Simba or Nala could respond, an audible dispute broke out between the various other cubs, Moto included.

"Why did you shove into me, Tara?"

"Shut up, you prep!"

"I'm not a prep!"

"Yes you are, Binamu!"

"Yo, girls! You fighting over me?"

"Be quiet, Moto!" a male cub cried.

"Stay out of this, Tuhuma!"

"I will not!"

Simba and Nala watched with shock and amazement.

"Jeez..." Simba could not seem to find the right words to describe this spectacle...

"Oh, a brawl!" Tama cried. "I haven't watched a good fight in a while."

"Tama, isn't that a good thing?"

"Oh, why in the world can't they just settle down?" Zazu moaned, placing his wings over his head. "No wonder I used to loathe them so..."

"I must watch this and record my observations!" Wazimu declared before grabbing a notepad. "This should make for interesting data..."

"These little brats don't know what they've done," Scar growled under his breath. *At least I have a reason to dispose of them later...*

An all-out shouting match had now erupted between the various cubs, much to the consternation of onlookers and the other members of the tour group.

"You would have pushed me into the water, Tara!" Binamu cried.

"I wish I had, you stupid prep!"

"Do you have to use the same insult again and again?" Tuhuma yelled.

"Shut up, yo!"

Tuhuma then pounced on Moto, and the two cubs began brawling. A grey cub stood cowering next to another female hornbill.

"Aibu? A little help here?" Tuhuma pleaded.

"Nope," the timid cub answered. "I'm staying right here with Maarifa."

"Hey! Cool it, cubs," a new voice purred. The other cubs quickly stopped fighting as two male cubs arrived on the scene. One had a golden-tan pelt, a burnt-looking tuft, a muscular body, and a golden lightning bolt dangling from a necklace. The other was a darker golden-brown color, and wore sunglasses with green lenses. This was the one who had spoken, and he wore a smug smile on his face.

"I say you cool it right now," the cub continued, "or Shocker here will shock you good."

"With pleasure," Shocker cackled as his paws surged with electricity. "Bow to your king!"

"Shocker and Hila?" Nala gasped. "My old boyfriends? Can this get any weirder?"

"*These* were the guys you dated before me?" Simba asked, raising an eyebrow.

Luckily enough, the arrival of Shocker and Hila seemed to be the end of the argument. The entire tour group was now settled.

It was not long before the boat moved slightly, and a lion emerged from below deck. He was large yet quite slim, with jet-black fur and a blond mane, along with a captain's hat sitting atop his head.

"Captain Interceptor! How you doing?"

The entire tour group responded, "We're ready!"

"Welcome aboard! I like it!"

The *Adventure Queen* was now at sea, and the ocean now glowed a beautiful bright blue. Tama and Tojo were now relaxed

on soft reclining chairs, as were Scar and Sarafina, and Simba and Nala were at the bow of the ship, staring at what lay ahead. The boat rode with the swell, and Simba and Nala loved every second of it.

"Just think about it. We'll be there in only a few hours," Simba observed. "It's amazing, isn't it?"

"Yes it is," Nala agreed.

"I really like a lot of these guys here with us. Sarafina's just plain awesome, Tama and Tojo seem nice, and Wazimu is pretty cool."

"I like the hornbills too," Nala added. "They seem quite sweet."

"Don't forget your captain here!" Captain Interceptor interjected. "I'm the one bringing you to this blasted island!"

"True," Nala added. "You're our kind of guy."

"So how much longer is it gonna be?" Simba asked.

"About two or three hours, I should think."

"Awesome!"

"We can only hope you'll enjoy yourself there," the captain mused. "Strange things always happen at that place..."

"But that's exactly why we're going!" Simba explained.

"I thought so. But if you think I'm a cool guy, just wait until you meet your guide."

"Who's our guide?" Nala asked.

"Oh, I'll let him be a surprise. He can be a bit of a sausage at times, but he's a great guy nonetheless."

Simba looked at Nala, and she shrugged.

"Point is, I think you'll like it there. There's plenty of danger, but you sound like the kind of cubs that thrive off of that. I know I

was..."

As Simba and Nala continued talking to Captain Interceptor, Tama and Tojo were carrying out a conversation of their own.

"Are you enjoying yourself, Tama?" Tojo asked.

"Of course I am, Tojo. And I think you are, too. You don't seem as stressed as you normally are."

"I really needed to get away from it all," the cub sighed. "And I think you did, too."

"I definitely did," Tama sighed. "Ah...This is the life."

"Would you like a paw massage?"

"Of course!"

As Tojo began massaging Tama's paws, Hila, Shocker and Moto all relaxed on their chairs. Shocker was eating off of a plate of drumsticks sitting on one of the chair arms.

"So what's the deal with you two?" Moto asked them.

"We came here to reclaim what is rightfully ours," Shocker responded. "Nala loved and left both of us, and so we have joined forces to take revenge against Simba."

"Oh, yeah. She's hot, yo."

"Yes, but don't think of getting your grimy little paws on her," Shocker growled.

"I won't," Moto answered as he smiled, "but I can take this!"

Moto swiped one of the drumsticks away from Shocker, grinning cheekily.

"Ha! Try and get it back, yo!"

"Why, you little..." Shocker growled before reaching over and clasp his paw on Moto's, desperately trying to reclaim his meal. The two cubs soon began tugging at each other's paws in

an attempt to reclaim the drumsticks.

"Cut it out!" Hila roared. "I will not tolerate this! This is meant to be serene and relaxing! If you don't stop fighting, I'll throw both of your unwashed bodies into the sea!"

With that, Shocker promptly grabbed the drumstick and sent a jolt of energy through his arm into Moto, shocking him into submission.

"And that's why they call me Shocker," the evil cub chuckled.

The boat continued to sail along the sea, cruising up and down as it rode the waves.

"So what happens once we arrive?" Scar asked Interceptor.

"Well, we'll land at the shore, and your guide will arrive promptly. I will stick around as well, since I'm basically his right-hand man, and he will lead us all to the lodge."

"All right. When do the tours start?"

"Tomorrow. Always the day after arrival."

"I see. What accommodations could I secure for Sarafina and myself at the lodge?"

"You'll have to talk to the guide about that."

"Hey! Look!" Nala shouted, pointing ahead. Soon Simba, Scar, and Captain Interceptor were watching the spot where she pointed.

A massive humpback whale breached in front of the boat, its long flippers twisting along with the rest of its massive body. Simba snapped a photograph before the animal plunged back into the sea.

"Now that is a rare sight, folks," Interceptor exclaimed. "I like it!"

More hours passed, and soon it was afternoon out on the sea. All of the passengers were as relaxed as could be, even Shocker, and Simba and Nala were still at the bow, facing each other.

"When do you think we'll finally get our first look at the island?" Nala asked.

"I don't know," Simba responded. "Maybe in a few minutes."

"Try looking up," Captain Interceptor suggested.

The cubs did as suggested, and as soon as they did so, they gasped.

Within sight of the boat was an enormous, craggy island with a beautiful yet foreboding appearance, thanks to its lush green jungles, golden beaches, and tall jagged mountains. The thrashing blue waves surrounding it gave it an even more exotic appearance. One could almost hear the native drums beating...

"There it is!" Simba cried. "There's the island!"

They had arrived.

"All right, grab your possessions and step right onto the pier."

The *Adventure Queen* had now pulled in to the shore, and everyone stepped off the vessel, one by one, onto the narrow wooden pier and slowly walked along, not wanting to shove into each other and cause another shouting match.

Simba was at the front, with Nala behind him, and soon he reached the very edge of the pier. The next step he took would be on the island's soil.

"I, Simba, the brave explorer, shall be the first to set foot on this island!" He then slowly pressed his paw into the soil, and then jumped. He was indeed the first.

Nala jumped after him, then the Captain, followed by Sarafina and Scar, and so on, until Maarifa was the last to join.

"Well, here we are," Captain Interceptor proclaimed. "Now all we have to do is wait for the guide."

No sooner than he said this, the leaves rustled and a figure burst from the jungle brush. He was a cub with light brown fur, striking blue eyes, a pith helmet, and an irresistible grin.

"Hi there! Welcome to Kadalo, everyone! I'm your guide: Haiba!"

"Hi, Haiba!" the tour group shouted.

"Did I mention you all look beautiful today?"

Simba raised an eyebrow, and the captain leaned down to whisper into Simba and Nala's ears.

"He's a little loopy. He's apt to fall in love with absolutely anything and anyone. You'd best be on your guard."

"Duly noted." Simba nodded.

"Now, a few things before we begin," Haiba declared. "First, you follow me at all times. No sneaking off. Second, you could see something at any time, so always keep a close watch."

A low rumble echoed from the jungle, and a great crash was heard, before a great beast emerged from the jungle and began walking onto the beach. The creature was roughly 20 feet tall, resembling an enormous bipedal lizard with luscious green scales covering its entire body. Its jaws were filled to the brim with sharp teeth, its lolling tongue was a deep purple, its arms ended in hands with knife-like claws, it stood on mighty bird-like legs, and its enormous tail dragged behind it on the ground. The beast let out an earth-shaking roar as it walked along the sand, and everyone began photographing it.

"My god..." Wazimu whispered. "It's an Allosaurus—straight from the age of the dinosaurs."

The great beast stood in the waves, staring out at the sea, and roared again before stomping down towards the other end of

the beach.

AN: So there you go. We've met more characters, we've arrived on the island, and we've even seen a dinosaur! I bet you all loved seeing Haiba and Interceptor. You'll get plenty more of them. Tune in next week to see what happens when they enter the jungles of Kadalo!

AN: Hello once more! Last week's chapter was rather interesting, considering that three of the most popular characters in *TLKA* made their debuts here. Not to mention the rather impressive first encounter with a dinosaur...Anyway, let's get on with the story!

The Island

Chapter Five: Into the Jungle

As the tour group began its push through the dark jungles, everyone marveled at the fantastic sights before their eyes. The jungle plants were luscious green in color, with the tall palms towering over the rest, and various small streams winding their way through. Strange, primordial sounds echoed through the dark jungle, the cries of prehistoric beasts on the hunt for prey...

"Now, while you take in this absolutely lovely sight," Haiba explained, "be sure to observe just how amazingly beautiful all of these plants, rocks, and streams are."

"That isn't too difficult," Nala remarked.

"Oh, I don't mean it in just that way." Haiba smirked, and then picked up a stone, holding it in his paw. He then kissed it, making everyone's eyes widen.

"What in the world?" Zazu asked himself.

"I think I'll keep you," Haiba said as he patted the rock gently with his other paw. "Professor, would you mind storing this in

your pocket?"

"Not at all," Wazimu replied as Haiba handed him the rock. The scientist placed the stone in his coat pocket, and they continued on.

"So tell me a little about yourselves, everyone," Haiba exclaimed. "I want to get to know my charges!"

"Charges?" Simba frowned. "We're tourists!"

"Ah, feisty one, aren't you?" Haiba chuckled. "I like you already."

"I'm his wife, Nala," Nala declared. "I'm pleased to meet you."

"I'm pleased to meet you too, Nala!" Haiba then shook her paw and winked at her. Nala then closed her eyes and took a deep breath.

"As for you," Haiba said as he walked towards Sarafina and Scar, "tell me a little about yourselves."

"Well," Scar answered, "I'm one of the world's most prestigious film critics, and she just so happens to be one of the most beloved and talented actresses in the entire world."

"That makes sense," Haiba said as he nodded. *Between Nala and Sarafina, I'll be in heaven throughout this tour...*

"We may be in show business," Scar explained, "but we'll be on our best behavior on this trip. No need to worry about us." He then grinned his signature sly grin.

"Your smile makes me suspicious of you."

"Oh, come on. I'm not *that* bad."

The group continued walking through the dense jungle, absorbing it in all its deadly majesty...

One hour passed, and soon the tour group came upon a spectacular sight. It was a tall white building with a black roof,

and multiple doors and railings, and a sign reading "Kadalo Island Hotel." An identical one sat across from it, and sandwiched between them was a larger building that looked like the front office.

"Welcome to the Kadalo Island Hotel, folks!" Haiba exclaimed. "You can stay in either of those two buildings there, and the one in the center is our lovely lobby, where you can have dinner and socialize with all of us!"

Haiba then led the tourists into the lobby, and they all went in to check in to the hotel.

"So, Haiba, do you think you'll like this tour group?" Captain Interceptor asked.

"Like it? I love it!" Haiba responded.

"What's so special about this group?"

"They all seem really interesting...Simba and Nala are awesome, and so is Sarafina!"

"You'd better tread carefully, Haiba. Nala's married, and Scar doesn't strike me as someone who would take it lightly if you charmed his girl away from him."

"Yeah, little dude," a voice called from the other side of the room. "You'd best tread carefully, man!"

A lanky lion with a blond mane wandered in, wearing a captain's hat identical to Interceptor's, and trailing behind him was a much larger lion with a golden pelt and dark mane.

"Bora! Captain Shauri!" Haiba exclaimed. "How are you guys?"

"The little dudes in our group are totally psyched for the tour, man!" Captain Shauri exclaimed.

"What he would be saying in normal English is that our group is very glad to be here," Bora said.

"That's great!" Haiba smiled. "Of course, I'm willing to bet your tour group doesn't have two extremely lovely lionesses among its members..."

"Isn't one of them that actress?" Bora asked.

"Yep!"

"Far out, man!" Captain Shauri exclaimed.

Simba and Nala were now settled in their room, which was surprisingly classy for being located on a remote tropical island.

"So far, this is just plain awesome," Simba said as he sipped from a coconut drink with a straw. "Didn't I tell you this would be the perfect honeymoon?"

"That you did," Nala agreed.

"I hope we see more of those dinosaurs."

"I'm pretty sure we will."

"What do you think of Haiba?"

"He's pretty charming, and he seems like he knows his stuff. I'd never leave you, of course."

Simba kissed her on the cheek, and she returned the affection.

"So, if you two want the most deluxe deal possible, we can place you in the suite on the second floor of the left building," Haiba explained to Scar and Sarafina. "You'll get a beautiful view of the jungle vista, and it'll be perfectly romantic for you two."

"Indeed," Scar agreed, grinning as always.

"Do you know what you remind me of, Scar?" Haiba asked.

"What?"

"A crocodile. We have a lot of them here. You're always smiling,

but in a way that's really unnerving. You're on the hunt for something, but I don't know what it is."

"Only a decent vacation," the red lion responded. "After all, when you're as lucky as I am in regards to this stunning lioness, you've got to treat her like a queen."

"And a queen is just what she is," Haiba said as he grinned, staring at her. "Why don't we stay and talk longer?"

"Thanks, but I'd rather just relax, yo."

As Scar and Sarafina turned and walked away, a loud roar echoed through the jungle. Captain Interceptor bounded towards Haiba.

"Haiba, come quickly! One of the dinosaurs is approaching the hotel!"

AN: Well, I hope you enjoyed that chapter! Bet you didn't expect there to be a hotel on this prehistoric island, eh? I'm willing to guess Bora and Shauri were surprises as well. Haiba's already flirting with Sarafina, and now we have our first cliffhanger! Come back next week to watch the spectacle of the century: Haiba vs. Allosaurus!

AN: Hello, Haiba-ites! Last week, we finally entered the jungles of Kadalo, and we even reached the island's unexpected hotel. But now, we have a cliffhanger on our hands! We're on set for one of the greatest battles of all time!

The Island

Chapter Six: Haiba vs. Allosaurus

"It's coming here, right now?" Haiba gasped.

"Yes," Captain Interceptor responded. "It's a big one, too."

"All right. I'm on my way."

"Did you hear that, Tama?"

"It's just the wind, Tojo."

"No it's not! It's one of the dinosaurs! And it's right here at the hotel!"

"It's not going to come in here, Tojo. We're perfectly safe here in our room."

"I don't think so."

"You know what? Let's get out of our room and go watch it!"

Tama leapt off her bed and led Tojo out of their room.

"Why do I get the feeling we'll regret this?" Tojo asked himself.

"Come on, Nala!" Simba cried as he and Nala rushed towards the balcony. "Look! It's right there at the lobby building!"

Nala placed her paws on the balcony as she stared at the great beast. It stood as high as the building, and it boasted the same green scales, massive jaws, sharp claws, and long tail as the one on the beach.

"Look, Nala! Haiba and Bora are coming to fight it! This will be awesome!"

Haiba and Bora burst through the door to the top balcony, and waiting for them was the tremendous head and serrated teeth of the allosaurus. It roared again in defiance.

"How should we deal with this one?" Bora asked. "Standard procedure?"

"Yes. He's no different from any of the others."

"Then let's get going."

Haiba picked up a large metal pole with a Y-shaped prong at the end and began poking the beast on the side of its jaw. It swiped its claw over its face, knocking the pole out of Haiba's paw and

onto the ground below.

"No! What do we do now?"

"I'll get it," Bora declared. "You keep him distracted."

Bora then turned around and went back inside to descend to the ground, and Haiba was left on his own. The allosaur leered towards him, prompting him to back away from the beast.

"Please don't eat me! I'm too young to die—and handsome!"

The ancient reptile paid no attention, its mind only focused on making a meal out of Haiba. He then lunged and swallowed the cub whole.

Suddenly, the creature felt another irritating stinging sensation, this time on its leg. After opening its jaws and letting Haiba roll out and back onto the balcony, it looked down and saw that Bora was jabbing it again and again. The prong did nothing to actually harm the creature, but it was designed to cause an irritation. The creature then turned away from the building and began to pursue Bora.

Haiba then looked himself over, and realized he was covered in drool. "Ugh...I hate it when this happens."

Bora was now running away towards the jungle, with the allosaur in hot pursuit. The beast roared again, fully intent on devouring the guide, but a strange hissing sound instantly caught its attention. A flare was now streaking across the sky, its bright orange glow capturing the monster's attention, and it ran after the fiery object as it landed deep in the jungle. The allosaurus then vanished into the dark growth, its long tail thrashing side to side.

On the balcony, Haiba stood watching, then placed the flare gun in his paw back into its special box.

In the main lobby, Bora entered through the door as Haiba reached the bottom of the stairs. They smiled at each other.

"Congratulations on a job well done," Bora said, grinning. "I would shake your paw—but you are covered with dino drool."

"Yeah..." Haiba sighed. "I need a bath. See you later!"

With that, Haiba scampered off, and Bora smiled to himself. "He's a good one, all right. That group is very lucky to have him."

The sun was now setting in the sky, and Simba and Nala remained at the balcony, staring out at the sea.

"Well, we've made it one day so far," Simba said. "That's good, isn't it?"

"Yeah. But I'm still a little worried. You saw how aggressive the dinosaur was."

"Haiba and Bora took care of it, though. That's what matters."

"True. So do we know what's happening tomorrow?"

"We're getting our first tour! We get to see all the awesome stuff!"

"It'll be interesting, certainly."

"To quote our captain, I like it!"

Nighttime had settled, and the lobby was deserted save for Haiba and Captain Interceptor, who sat across from each other at a table. The cub was now spotlessly clean, just as he had been when the tour group arrived. One would never have guessed he'd been covered in drool...

"So, what's the plan for tomorrow's tour?" the captain asked as he popped a piece of sausage into his mouth.

"Well," Haiba responded as he ate a slice of cheese, "we'll tour the jungle, naturally, and we'll certainly lead them to the beach as well."

"I presume we're doing it the same way we always do it? You always seem to show them the exact same sights every single time."

"This place is completely unpredictable. One time you go to a particular spot, there might be nothing, and the next time, there's a dinosaur feeding frenzy. Besides, there are certain parts of the island where I don't like to go."

"Why not?" Interceptor asked. The blond-maned lion leaned forward.

Haiba then looked at his companion. "Have you ever heard of... Kamu'a?"

"I think I have. It's a god, or spirit, or something. Right?"

"Yes. Specifically, he's the god of this island. That crazy native pride worships him. They say he dwells in the volcano at the center of the island, and he only comes down every now and again. He is pure evil incarnate. He kills for kicks and demands brutal sacrifices. That's why I try to steer clear of the native pride. I'm worried they'll try to sacrifice the tourists. I think the guide before me got sacrificed himself."

"You're worried about a legend, Haiba. I can see being worried about the allosaurs. They're real. Kamu'a is not."

"Interceptor, I've heard him roaring at night. It's not like any other sound on the island. It's just too frightening to describe. And do you know what I saw yesterday, while I was out in the jungle making sure everything was okay in preparation for the tour?"

"What did you see?"

"I saw a dead brachiosaur. It was completely lacerated. And its ribs were broken, like something had crushed it with strong forelegs. I could see the marks from its claws on the poor beast's side. Every injury was burnt, as if scorched by lava. But there's one more thing."

"What?"

"That characteristically long neck, the one allosaurs can never completely bite through...was snapped in half."

AN: Well, that might have been the most exciting chapter yet! Poor Haiba can never seem to escape being covered in drool... And just what is this Kamu'a? Whatever he is, he can obviously kill the biggest and strongest dinosaurs with ease. Sweet dreams, everyone...

Come back next week to see the beginning of the tour!

AN: Hello once more, Haiba Worshipers! Last time, one of the most exciting battles in fanfic history took place when Haiba battled an attacking allosaurus. To boot, we also had an ominous introduction to a sinister god named Kamu'a...Today, we'll see the beginning of the tour. How will it go? Read and find out...

The Island

Chapter Seven: The Ceremony

"Simba, wake up! It's time to go!" Nala prodded her husband again and again with a paw.

"Oh...let me sleep more..."

"Simba, the tour will leave in an hour. You don't want to miss that, do you?"

"Oh, all right, all right." Simba groggily emerged from the bed. "What can we order for breakfast?"

"I'll check...We'll need to be as alert as possible, I think."

"You'll need to be as alert as possible on this tour," Haiba explained to the tour group. "You never know what might happen."

Simba and Nala listened eagerly, swallowing up every word the guide said. Tojo was listening as well, though he appeared to be less enthused and more nervous, and Tama examined at her own claws. Scar wore his typical bored facial expression, and Sarafina listlessly stared off into space. Zazu and Pori paid close attention, as did Professor Wazimu, while Shocker and Hila whispered to each other. Moto simply stared at Sarafina, while Tara, Aibu, Binamu, Tuhuma and Maarifa listened to the guide.

"Okay, here's how this is going to work," Haiba explained, with the captain standing at his side. "We're going to take this route, and you're going to follow my explicit instructions at every possible second. Like I said, there's no room for error here. One mistake might cost you your life."

"What counts as a mistake, cheese puff?" Sarafina asked, raising her paw.

Haiba sighed and smiled. "Well, my sweet, any number of things might be hazardous. Don't wander off the pathways, don't disobey me, and pay close attention at every second. If something comes along, I'll help you all through the problem."

"And very few individuals want to mess with me," Interceptor proclaimed. "I've become rather skilled at this sort of thing."

"Oh, so you do have a use besides dropping us off here?" Shocker asked derisively.

"Don't test me, cub," Interceptor snarled, baring his fangs.

"Anyways," Haiba interrupted, "we'd best get going. Come along, everyone!"

And with that, the tour group departed into the dark and mysterious jungle...

The dark green jungle remained as mysterious and vibrant as it always had been, and the sound of camera shutters echoed through it as the tour group photographed the sights.

"Now this is kind of a risky area," Haiba informed the group. "The one threat on this island with a home base has it right here."

"That threat being?" Zazu asked.

"We have a native pride here," Haiba explained. "They don't particularly like us, and they especially don't like tourists. Let's just be careful."

As soon as he said this, the sound of native drums and chanting echoed through the jungle. Haiba stepped cautiously, knowing there was trouble.

"Just stay behind me," Haiba said to the group. "Wait until I see what's going on."

The cub stepped towards an enormous palm bush, and Interceptor, Simba, Nala, Scar, and Sarafina gathered behind him, with the rest further behind them.

"I wanna see!" Sarafina whispered.

"Just be quiet," Scar growled. "We don't want to be spotted."

"Okay, hush now," Haiba said. "This could be a problem."

Haiba parted the palm bush with his paws, and his eyes widened at what he saw.

A pride of crazed lions was frantically dancing about, as a lioness was tied to a tall tree with vines. Some of the lions played drums on large skeletons, and others were scattering flowers around the tied-up lioness.

"Holy Mackerel, what a show!" Simba cried. "Nala, get a load of this! Have you ever seen anything like that before in your life?"

Haiba peered closer, and noticed that standing above the crazed natives was an enormous golden lion with a dark brown mane, snakelike eyes, and a golden staff shaped like a cobra. He stared at the ceremony with a pleased expression, smiling the

whole time. He then looked out, and noticed the faces of Haiba, Simba, Nala, and Sarafina watching them.

"Halt!" the sinister lion cried, raising his staff into the air.
"Intruders have arrived!"

The ceremony abruptly stopped, and all was silent.

Haiba motioned with a paw for everyone to step out into the open. "It's better if they see us," he explained.

One by one, every single member of the tour group stepped or flew into view. The sinister lions stared at them.

"Greetings, Mungu Pride," Haiba said, attempting friendliness.
"How are you?"

"Bow before the might of Hago, peasant!" the lion with the staff cried. "You have interrupted our sacred ceremony in honor of the great Kamu'a. For that, you shall pay a high price!"

"Who's Kamu'a?" Simba asked Hago.

"Kamu'a is the great god of this island," Hago explained. "He sees all, hears all, rules all, and kills all. As High Priest, I speak for him. We are one."

"So what is this 'high price' anyway?" Haiba asked.

"It's a simple one," Hago answered. "In exchange for letting you go today, we shall have to take one of your own as a sacrifice to Kamu'a!"

"Okay," Haiba agreed, pretending to go along with it. *It might not be so bad. Maybe he'll ask for Moto or Scar...*

"I demand the two lionesses!" Hago proclaimed, pointing at Nala and Sarafina with his staff. "Any other choices would be second-rate."

"You're not getting my wife, buster!" Simba cried.

"Sarafina is mine, you primitive ingrate," Scar snarled.

"Yeah—They're both too hot to kill, yo!" Moto proclaimed.

"For once, I actually agree with you," Haiba whispered. He then turned to Hago. "We will not agree to the sacrifice of these lionesses, or anyone else in the group."

"Yeah," Interceptor agreed. "We don't trade with the likes of you."

Haiba nodded. "Good day."

"Then get out of my sight," Hago growled.

As the tourists walked away proudly, the evil lion proclaimed, "Don't think you've won, infidels! I will get you! You'll see!"

AN: Well, that was quite the chapter, wasn't it? I bet none of you expected Hago to show up, much less the Mungu Pride. You'll be seeing plenty of them in this story. I should also explain that we've met our entire cast now...except for that elusive Kamu'a, of course. Credit goes to TPYMK for a couple of Hago's lines as well.

At any rate, come back next week for the next thrilling chapter and see killer sea creatures stalk leonine prey!

AN: Hello yet again! Last week, we saw the beginning of the tour, along with a surprise appearance by Hago and the Mungu Pride. This time, however, be prepared for some truly spectacular sea creature thrills! Oh, and tread cautiously. This one will be a little dark...

The Island

Chapter Eight: Creature of the Cove

Hours passed, the sun moving higher into the sky, when the tour group reached the edge of the jungle.

"Welcome to the beach, everyone!" Haiba cried. "Here you'll see some truly beautiful sights! Just ignore me while you do..."

Haiba then parted the brush, clearing a pathway for the group to walk onto the beach in single file. Simba was the first to walk, and when he got his view of the beach, he gasped.

"Look at this, Nala!" he said, smiling.

Nala joined him, and they looked out at the beach, which featured towering rocky cliffs, crashing waves, and pinkish-white sand. It was a beautiful sight, to say the least.

Simba and Nala walked down to the beach, followed by the captain, Haiba himself, Sarafina, Scar, Tama, Tojo, and the rest.

"Isn't this the life, Nala?"

"Yep," Nala said as she relaxed on the beach with Simba. Both of them were lying on their backs, their paws folded under their heads as they stared up at the sky.

"It's nice to see them enjoying themselves, isn't it, Captain?" Haiba asked.

"I'd say so. Most of them seem good."

"I have my suspicions about some of them though, particularly Scar."

"Oh, yes. Something's definitely off with that sausage."

Haiba then picked up a seashell, stroking it lovingly.

"Oh, aren't you a sweet one?" he said, grinning.

Scar and Sarafina sat on the beach, staring out at the sea.

"Have you been enjoying yourself on this trip, Sarafina?" Scar asked.

Sarafina smiled. "It's awesome, yo."

Simba and Nala now slept on the beach, their little eyes closed as they lay on the sand...

Suddenly, a shrill cry echoed across the beach, and the two

cubs awakened in a flash, running to join the others. They all stared out at another part of the beach, their eyes widening at the sight before them.

Standing in the surf was an enormous shrimp, its hard, blood-red carapace standing out among the blueness of the waves and the light tones of the sand. Its round, black eyes glinted hungrily, its long antennae moving frantically as it moved closer to the tourists on its spidery legs. Its small pinchers clacked again and again.

"In all my years," Wazimu declared, "I never thought I'd see anything like this."

The giant shrimp quickened its pace, and it soon became clear what this creature intended.

"Run!" Haiba cried.

Everyone began running or flying as quickly as possible, with the enormous crustacean in hot pursuit.

"Follow me up the cliff!" Haiba said. "He won't be able to climb up after us!"

Haiba was the first to scamper up the high cliff, followed by Simba and Nala. Tama and Tojo began climbing after them, and soon the five cubs watched the action below.

The shrimp pursued Tara and Aibu, intent on devouring them. The two cubs cowered on the ground as it towered over them. However, as it leaned in for the kill, Captain Interceptor heroically jumped onto its armored tail, climbing up its back until he reached the head.

"You're not getting away so easily, you spindle-legged sausage!"

The shrimp reared up like a riding bull, its antennae moving at an even more rapid rate as its anger grew. As the sea creature struggled with the captain, Tara and Aibu made their escape, followed by the other tourists.

The shrimp ventured closer to the rocky cliff, and Captain Interceptor made a fantastic leap and climbed up to the highest level of the cliff.

The giant shelled monster turned and beheld all of the tourists on the rocky cliff. It had been tricked! The creature snapped its claws in anger and advanced toward the cliff. It began to climb up the cliff, but its body structure prevented it from climbing too far up. It was left helplessly attempting to use its antennae to possibly knock someone off his feet and down the cliff into its jaws.

Simba and Nala turned to Haiba. "We're good now, aren't we?" Simba asked.

"Don't make assumptions," Haiba answered gravely. "Some of those guys down there are still in his reach."

The clawed crustacean reached out further towards the group of tourists on the lower levels closer to the creature, a group consisting of Tara, Aibu, Tuhuma, and Binamu. The shrimp clacked his pinchers again as he focused his efforts on the quartet of cubs. Aibu fled to the higher level instantly, while Tara, Tuhuma, and Binamu followed after him. The giant shrimp finally reached out and grabbed Tuhuma in one of its claws, and Binamu in the other, paying no attention as the cubs kicked and screamed.

Haiba leapt from the cliff and sprang into action, followed by Captain Interceptor. The two brave leaders launched themselves right at the shrimp, seeking to rescue the two cubs it had captured. Captain Interceptor sank his claws into the pincher holding Tuhuma, and the monster dropped Tara before attempting to grab Interceptor with the other pincher. Tara scampered away, and Haiba helped her up before running back to help Interceptor.

By this point, the shrimp had decided that enough was enough. Just as Haiba arrived, the cruel crustacean knocked Interceptor off his paws and moved away from the cliff, Tuhuma still in its

clutches. It crawled away and carried the screaming cub with it as it walked back into the surf and submerged under the sea.

Neither it or Tuhuma returned to the surface.

The group sat in silence, watching the sea. Haiba then stated, "The unthinkable has happened. We've lost a member of our group. Come on, everyone. Let's go back into the jungle."

With that, they all hopped or flew off the rock and walked back into the brush.

The jungle seemed darker and more foreboding as the group walked through the jungle. The group was nowhere near as talkative as before, with the exception of Shocker and Hila, who were snickering to each other about something. It was quite obvious that they were making cruel jokes about Tuhuma's demise.

"I don't get it," Simba said as he walked alongside Nala. "How could you have ever been with either of those two? They seem awful."

"Well," Nala answered, "both of them were really good at hiding it, particularly Hila. But after a while, I saw both of them for what they were. Then I met you, and I just knew from the start that you weren't like them. Then we got married, and now here we are."

"Yeah...I'm worried now, Nala. What if something happens to you too?"

Nala then kissed Simba on the cheek. "Don't worry," she reassured him, smiling. "I'm not going anywhere."

AN: Well, that was quite a chapter, wasn't it? We had quite an exciting action sequence, complete with our first character death! That was quite a shocker, I bet...Poor Tuhuma.

Anyway, come back next week to see what happens in the

jungles of Kadalo at night.

AN: Hello once again, Haiba-ites! In last week's installment, we saw a rather tense encounter with a giant shrimp, which resulted in the loss of a member of the group. But as horrifying as that was, let's see what terrors occur at night...

The Island

Chapter Nine: The Sacrifice

The sun was now setting in the sky, creating a brilliant reddish-purple panorama, as the tour group settled into a sheltered cave obscured by ferns and vines.

"We'll sleep here tonight," Haiba said. "We've had a long day."

Tama and Tojo immediately found themselves a corner, and Simba and Nala followed suit.

"Simba, I'm really worried."

"About what?"

"It's just...I don't know. After everything that happened today, I'm a little worried about us."

"It's like you said earlier. We're not going anywhere."

"Oh, right."

Simba briefly observed Tama and Tojo as the latter gave his girl a paw massage, and turned back to Nala before licking her cheek.

"Aw, Simba! You didn't have to do that. I know you love me."

"You're right. I didn't have to. But I wanted to."

The two cubs then relaxed in each other's arms.

Shocker and Hila slowly wandered into the cave, the last ones to come in, and they walked towards Scar, who sat beside a sleeping Sarafina. The red lion looked down at the two cubs and

scowled.

"What do you want?" he asked.

Shocker leaned in and whispered something into his ear, and the lion smiled, tousling Shocker's tuft before slowly nudging Sarafina awake.

"Yawn...What is it? I just barely fell asleep, yo..."

"Sarafina," Scar answered, "I'm just going to go find some dinner for you and I. You go back to sleep."

With that, the thin lion slunk out of the cave, unnoticed.

Hago slowly made his way towards the cave entrance, scowling as he walked. "Those infidels will pay..." he growled.

At that moment, he came across something he did not expect. One of the tourists was approaching him, bearing a sinister smile that reminded him of his own. Hago soon recognized this lion, however, as the one who had called him a "primitive ingrate." How he had resented that comment...

"Why are you here, infidel?" he asked, growling.

"Hago, my friend," Scar said as he smiled, "I have a proposition for you."

Hago then smiled. "I'm listening..."

"You say you need sacrifices for your god. And it seems your god wants them now, judging by your presence here. Well, I could help you, in exchange for something."

"Tell me more."

"Well, when darkness falls, I will aid you and as many members of your pride as you need in taking every female tourist hostage, and you can tie them all up for your god. But, here's the deal. You must allow me to rescue Sarafina at precisely the right time."

"Hmmm..." Hago put a paw to his chin as he pondered this, before answering, "Your terms are acceptable. I shall meet you again after sundown."

With that, Hago turned away, and Scar began looking for any possible scrap of meat for himself and Sarafina...

Night had settled upon the island, blanketing it in blackness. Under this cover of darkness, several sinister figures crept through the jungle towards the cave.

"Now, if you all sneak in quickly and quietly, they might not notice you," Scar said. "I'll follow you and make sure the others don't wake up."

"All right," Hago agreed, before turning to face his lackeys. "Come along now. It's time to find victims for our great god."

Inside the cave, Simba's eyes slowly opened, and he noticed he felt rather cold. He'd fallen asleep nice and warm, snuggled up with Nala...

He looked to his right, and he saw that she was no longer there. He then got up and stretched before looking around the cave. Noticing she wasn't anywhere inside the cave, he slowly stepped towards the entrance.

She never wanders off on her own like this. I wonder what's going on?

He then walked out, staring at the beautiful nighttime jungle. But he couldn't sense Nala anywhere.

"Nala! Where are you?" he cried out into the jungle night. He waited, and waited. No response.

"Nala! Hey, Nala!" he cried again. Still no response.

He then walked back into the cave, and for the first time, he noticed something strange.

"All of the girls are gone," he said. "Nala, Sarafina, Tama, Pori..."

His eyebrows widened in horror, and he rushed towards Haiba, shaking him awake.

"Wha-wha-what is it?" Haiba asked groggily.

"All of the girls are missing," Simba said. "It's just us guys. I think they were kidnapped by that crazy pride!"

At that instant, Haiba bolted up, looked around quickly, and stuck his head outside before hurrying back in.

"Everyone, wake up! It's an emergency!" Haiba cried.

"What is it?" Interceptor asked. "Can't we just sleep, ya sausage?"

"No, Interceptor! Those cuckoo Mungu lions kidnapped all the girls!"

Haiba and Simba rushed to the front, joined by Interceptor, as Scar sprang past them, vanishing within seconds.

"He must really care about her," Haiba mused as they ran in the direction Scar was heading.

The natives began beating the drums, first slowly, then frantically as they dragged Nala, Sarafina, Tama, Pori, Tara, Binamu, and Maarifa to the sacrificial altar, tying them up with vines. The ceremony was even wilder than the last, with louder music, crazier chanting, and fiery torches lighting up the night. Nala and Sarafina struggled wildly with the crazed lions as they were tied up, kicking and shoving as much as they could. The others put up less of a resistance, and soon all of the sacrificial victims were rendered trapped and unable to move. The atmosphere grew tenser as the natives awaited the arrival of their god.

A terrifying roar echoed through the night as a giant beast

emerged from the jungle, roaring again skyward. He resembled an enormous lizard with a crocodile's head, lava-red scales, a glowing golden belly, eyes like burning embers, sharp jagged spines on his back, a row of horns on his snout that got progressively larger towards the front, and two large horns above his eyes. He easily towered above even the largest allosaurs, and the sharp-toothed snout could easily bite through a brachiosaur's neck. This was the great terror of Kadalo Island. This was a creature of pure evil. This was Kamu'a.

The captured females stared at the ruthless god, frozen in fear, as he made its way towards his intended victims. They were like insects in comparison to the enormous beast, and he soon leaned in, slowly swiveling his head as he tried to decide which of his victims to eat first. He growled and rumbled, before opening his mighty jaws and snapping up Maarifa in an instant. It happened so quickly and noiselessly that it took the others a few seconds to register who had been devoured. Not even a feather remained.

At that instant, Scar leapt into the fray, unsheathed his claws, and sliced the vines off of Sarafina, freeing her, before they both ran away from the sacrificial altar. Sarafina then turned around and ran back to the altar, causing Scar to growl as he watched.

Simba, Haiba, and Interceptor jumped out of the brush and ran towards the altar.

"My god, it's huge!" Simba gasped.

"No time to observe him, Simba," Haiba said. "We have to rescue these lovely ladies!"

With that, all three lions and Sarafina liberated the other victims, and they joined up with Scar before running away.

Kamu'a stood tall and roared in anger. Hago raised his staff and pointed at the fleeing tourists, commanding the Mungu Pride to retrieve them.

"After them!" he cried. "Don't let them get away!"

Simba, Nala, Haiba, and the other cubs ran the fastest, with Interceptor, Scar and Sarafina behind them, and Pori flying overhead. The evil pride chased after them frantically, until the tourists ran into an area of jungle filled with plants higher than the lions, and thus the evil pride ran into the high plants, not noticing as Haiba, Interceptor, and the others cleverly slipped back out before heading back in the direction of the shelter.

"Well, everyone, I think we can say that was a mostly successful operation," Haiba said.

"We lost Maarifa, though," Nala said, sighing.

Simba noticed her saddened face, and moved closer to comfort her.

"To me," Simba said, "you're more important than anyone."

With that, they settled down to sleep.

AN: Well, that was possibly the most thrilling chapter yet. After all that buildup, you've finally seen Kamu'a himself. Awesomely terrifying, isn't he? Anyway, come back next week to see what happens next!

AN: Hello again! Last time, we had the most exciting chapter yet, which saw the introduction of the supreme evil on Kadalo Island, the ruthless god Kamu'a. Not only that, but we lost Maarifa, so now two members of the tour group are gone. How will the others cope with all this? Let's see...

The Island

Chapter Ten: A Moment Alone

The sun rose over the jungle, bathing it in a beautiful light. The birds began chirping away, and the monkeys called out to each other. In the cave, the survivors were sleeping in a surprisingly

peaceful manner. After everything that had happened to them yesterday, they deserved a peaceful rest.

Nala was the first to wake up. She looked around her, and noticed everyone but Haiba was still asleep. He was sitting at the entrance, staring out into the jungle. She decided to approach him.

"Hey. How are you?" she asked tenderly.

Haiba sighed, then turned to look at her. "Worried. I don't know how I can protect you guys. We lost two tourists in the *first day* alone. What kind of guide am I?"

"Well, how many tours have you conducted?"

"Many," he answered. "I've been here for years. Every now and again, this sort of thing happens, but never like this."

"What do you think it is?" she asked.

"I don't know. The whole thing with the shrimp was just a freak accident. But Kamu'a...I can't explain it. Last night was the first time I've seen him. I've heard him calling at night, and the day before you came, I found a brachiosaur he killed."

"Those are the really big dinosaurs with the long necks, right?"

"That's correct. Our allosaurs can never manage to bite through that neck. Kamu'a just snapped it like it was a twig."

"I don't doubt that," Nala said, thinking back to the sight of the colossal creature approaching her.

"I just feel...guilty," Haiba said, sighing. "I feel like I'm responsible for their deaths."

"You're not," Nala reassured him. "Don't worry about it. Just keep doing what you do best."

Haiba smiled at Nala. She really knew how to comfort people. Simba was lucky to have her...

"I'd best go back with Simba. He needs comfort too." She then walked back towards her sleeping husband.

Sarafina then woke up as Nala walked past her. She stretched, rubbing her eyes with her paws, and looked around.

"Why am I up so early, yo?" she asked herself. She then noticed Haiba at the front of the cave. *He looks kind of sad...Can't really blame him. He must feel like it's all his fault.*

She then padded towards him. He turned, and he felt a little flutter in his heart. He could finally have a moment alone with her. He donned his best cheesy grin and turned to speak to her.

"How are you, my sweet?" he asked.

"I don't do that mushy stuff. Just call me Sarafina, yo."

"Well then, Sarafina, how are you feeling?"

"Tired, confused, and frightened."

"I don't blame you," Haiba said softly, placing a paw on her back.

"Why are you touching me, yo?"

"Just offering some comfort."

"Oh, okay."

The two sat there in that same manner for quite some time, staring at the sunrise. Sarafina was now wrestling with her own thoughts.

He's cute and all, but he's, like, too young...That paw on my back feels pretty nice, though...I didn't notice Scar comforting me much last night. Then again, he was probably tired and just wanted to sleep. He deserves it after saving me.

"Excuse me, Haiba?" a familiar voice asked. "What are you doing with my lioness?"

Haiba turned to face Scar. "She's just scared after last night and

wanted comfort without waking you up."

"How considerate."

Scar then turned and walked away, and Haiba buried his head into Sarafina's side. She stared at him quizzically, but then smiled softly and allowed him to continue.

"This is nice, yo."

"I could do this all day."

Sarafina smiled again.

I'd have no problems with that. No problems at all...

AN: What a sweet little chapter that was! After all the death and terror, we've had a sweet, relaxing, and ultimately romantic chapter. I spoiled you all here...Next week, we'll be back on schedule with our jungle mayhem. What will they encounter next? And how will Sarafina's seemingly growing attachment to Haiba affect things? Come back next week and find out!

AN: Hello once more! Last week, we got to cool down a bit after all the excitement of the last few chapters, and we even got some Haiba/Sarafina interaction. Where will this lead? Let's see...

The Island

Chapter Eleven: Winged Terrors

"This island is often thought to be millions of years old," Haiba said as the tour group walked through the jungle. With everything that had happened yesterday, he hadn't had much of a chance to dispense facts like a proper guide. Today would be different, hopefully...

"Is there a precise number attached?" Wazimu asked. "The allosaurs are creatures that date back to the Jurassic, so this jungle is at least as old as that."

"No, but you make a good point," Haiba said. "It's possible that the various creatures migrated to this island. Certainly the case with the native pride."

"The less said about them, the better," Simba snarled.

"Simba, I'm fine, aren't I?" Nala asked, smiling at him.

"Yeah, but still. I could have lost you last night."

Nala then nuzzled Simba's cheek. "Don't worry about me, okay?"

"Okay," Simba sighed.

"What is this giant rock doing in the middle of the jungle?" Tama asked as the tour group stared up at the mighty monolith.

"Well," Haiba said, "that large cave up at the top is probably somebody's home."

"Whoa, dude!" Moto said as he gazed upon it with a dazed expression. "This rock is, like...a rock!"

"Thank you for stating the obvious," Shocker said, frowning at the idiotic cub before him. He then turned and whispered to Hila.

"He's weak and pathetic," Shocker snarled. "Why in the world did Scar think he'd be of any use at all?"

"Don't judge him, Shocker. Scar's a smart guy—almost as smart as me."

"Get over yourself."

"I wouldn't talk, Shocker. Scar and I are both a lot smarter than you, and to boot, you're almost as disgusting as Moto."

"What? Oh, come on..."

"True, you speak in a more refined manner, but you're just as scummy as him. At least I bathe..."

"I can do whatever I want," Shocker snarled before walking away.

Haiba stood in front of the rock, smiling proudly. "Well, guys, this is quite a peaceful spot, wouldn't you say?"

A terrifying squawk echoed out of the cave, followed by a series of batlike shrieks and the sound of flapping wings. The entire group froze in terror, staring up at the high rock.

Suddenly, a golden blur zoomed out of the cave, before slowing down and revealing itself to be a giant Pteranodon, with leathery skin golden as the sun, a stork-like beak, a long bony crest, enormous wings, and clawed, bird-like feet. This creature was soon joined by others of its kind, all screeching at the top of the rock before swooping down to the tourists.

"Run!" Haiba screamed as the winged monsters surrounded them, determined to obtain an easy meal. They used their mighty wings to enclose them in a circle, preventing them from escaping.

"Okay, what do we do now, sausage?" Interceptor asked.

Before Haiba could announce a plan, Simba donned his trademark smirk. "We're going to...charge!"

With that, the cub ran under the cub-sized gap beneath the wings of the creatures, followed quickly by Nala, Tama, Tojo, Shocker, Hila, Moto, Tara, Aibu, and Binamu. The enraged Pteranodons broke out of the circle, giving Captain Interceptor the opportunity to pounce onto one of the mighty pterosaurs and dig his claws into its shoulder blades before gnawing at the side of its neck.

"Mmm...tasty pterosaur blood. I like it!" He then leapt away as the wounded creature collapsed to the ground, pitifully attempting to flap its wings. The other pterosaurs then turned away from the tourists and surrounded their fallen comrade.

Once they were a safe distance away, the tourists gazed at the

scene.

"I feel kind of sorry for him," Tojo said as he watched.

"Yeah, it is sad. But...we're safe," Haiba said. "None of us are dead this time, so that's good."

"True," Nala sighed.

Haiba then stepped towards Simba, and put a paw on the cub's shoulder.

"I gotta hand it to you, Simba. You saved us."

Simba smiled. "Thanks, Haiba."

Nala gave him a kiss, and Shocker and Hila turned away, disgusted.

"We'll get her back," Shocker declared. "At any cost."

AN: Well, we're back to the excitement, aren't we? Not only that, but we learned that our three evil cubs have teamed up with Scar. Not good news, is it? Come back next week to see what terrifying thrills lie in wait!

AN: Hello once again! Last week, we had a tense encounter with some Pteranodons. What will happen as the group heads deeper into the jungle? Let's take a look...

The Island

Chapter Twelve: The River

About an hour passed before the group reached a river that coursed through the jungle, muddy brown in color but still sparkling in the sunlight.

"Isn't this one beautiful river?" Haiba asked. "Just look at it. It's so smooth and chocolaty..."

Just like him, Sarafina thought. I'm liking him more and more, yo.

"So, why are we here?" Tama asked.

"Well, I was thinking we could try and catch some fish. We've got to eat something in this jungle, right?"

"Right!" Tojo said.

Simba walked towards the river. "I'll do it," he proclaimed. "No fish can escape me!"

Simba then jumped into the muddy water, splashing about wildly. A large grey fish flopped out, and the cub, now splattered with mud, attempted desperately to catch it. "Come back here! Come on! Stay still, won't you?" He then dived under the water after the fish, before reemerging triumphantly with the fish in his mouth, wearing his signature smirk as he ran back to shore.

"Breakfast is served!" he proclaimed as he dropped the fish. "Now let me go back and get some more."

With that, he dived back into the water, and continued searching for fish...

A massive pile of dead fish sat in the clearing, as the tourists pulled fish off of the pile to snack on them.

"Fish, yo," Moto said as he devoured one of them. "They're scaly...and stuff."

Shocker scorched his fish with a mild electric blast. "Ah, fried. Just how I like it."

Captain Interceptor ate from a small pile of three fish, and smiled at Simba. "Gotta hand it to ya, kid. You're quite the expert fisherman."

"Thanks. Maybe I should start doing that for hire..."

Simba then enjoyed the fruits of his labor, devouring the fish as he sat next to Nala.

"So," he asked her, "do you like the fish?"

"You bet," she whispered, smiling. "Now we just have to find another river for you to get clean again."

"Oh come on. You once said I'm your 'handsome manly hero.' This comes with that."

"Simba, having mud on you doesn't make you more manly."

Haiba and the captain watched the bantering from a distance.

"Ah, boys and girls. They both have their quirks, don't they?" Haiba asked.

"Well, you'd know better than anybody," Captain Interceptor said.

Scar and Sarafina enjoyed their pile of fish, and he smiled as he watched her.

"I'm loving this fish, yo!" she said as she wolfed down her meal.

"I have to say, Simba has proven himself to have at least one talent," Scar added. *Though he probably has more...I can definitely see him playing a part in the fall of Haiba. That guide needs to go.*

Scar's eyes widened, as an idea popped into his head.

Perhaps I can devise some way to get Nala and Haiba alone... and then I can tell Simba I saw them kissing...Wouldn't that upset him greatly? Then the two would fight, and perhaps both would be grievously injured. Then the next time a creature comes around, I can make it so that Haiba is killed, and then I can step up and become leader. I'll be in command, and Sarafina will be mine forever. I must plot this out...

As Shocker and Hila ate their fish, they discussed their own villainous wants.

"I hope Scar has come up with a way to get rid of Haiba," Shocker said. "Once we've taken care of that little freak, we can

think of a way to kill Simba."

"Well," Hila said in response, "it looks like Scar is planning something right now. He'll tell us as soon as he can. I can tell just by the look on his face that it's gonna be good."

Wazimu sat with a notepad, jotting down everything he could see into his notebook.

"This island is spectacular thus far," he said as he wrote. "I can't think of a more exciting place to be the first scientist to study everything."

The sound of footsteps then echoed through the jungle, booming with each step. A terrible roar sounded out, and the tour group turned and looked at the mighty beast before them.

This would make the Pteranodons look easy.

AN: Well, we had another relaxing chapter today, didn't we? I bet you enjoyed that. It seems Simba is quite the talented fish catcher. Bet you never expected that...I also couldn't resist that cute/comic little moment between Simba and Nala. And what of Scar's plan? Suitably sinister for such a master of evil plots...

At any rate, come back to see what massive beast the group will face off with!

AN: Hello yet again! Last week, we had a relaxing moment by the river, as well as some ingenious plotting by Scar. But I left you on a rather nasty cliffhanger, too. What giant beast is here to attack them? Go ahead and see for yourself...

The Island

Chapter Thirteen: The Horned Beast

The group members stood frozen in terror at the mighty beast as it stomped closer and closer to them. Even Captain Interceptor was shaking at the sight of it.

The gigantic beast resembled a rhinoceros in build, but would have towered over the largest elephant. Its radiant orange scales made it stand out among the swampy jungle greenery, and its mighty horned head was a terrifying sight to behold. Three long, bone-white horns, one on the nose and one above each eye, jutted out of the massive head, also armed with a parrot-like beak and a shield-like frill on the back of its head. Its long, lizardlike tail smashed a tree next to it. The beast bellowed again, making the tourists tremble.

"A triceratops," Wazimu said, desperately sketching the creature. "Alive, and here before us! What an amazing sight to behold."

The triceratops stood, and roared again before charging at top speed, reducing the plants under its hooves to dusts. It shook its massive head, grunting and growling as the tourists dived to the sides of the path out of its way.

The monstrous beast then stopped and turned around. Clearly it had its sights set on killing the tourists. No one would invade its territory and survive...

"He's coming back toward us!" Simba cried. "What do we do?"

Haiba stood up. "We're going to run over to that little cave over there, the one right under the overhanging rock. Follow me, everyone!"

With that, the cub bolted across the path, followed by the captain and the tourists. The angry beast suddenly appeared in front of them, preventing any escape. The massive creature then charged again at them.

The tourists began running wildly as Haiba and Interceptor leapt at the triceratops, attempting to claw at its nigh-impenetrable scaly hide. Binamu took the opportunity to run out of the crowd, dashing off into the jungle. This did not escape the notice of the giant beast, and it shook the two lions from its body before running off after Binamu.

"Help! Please!" she cried, but it was no use. She ran through the river and onto the other shore, but the enormous beast continued to chase her, and it soon had her cornered against a rock. The beast tossed her into the air with its horns, and then repeated the action before letting her fall to the ground. It then dived in, and when it lifted its head again to roar in triumph, the dead form of Binamu slumped to the ground.

The monstrous beast roared one more time as it stomped off into the jungle, its bulky frame slowly vanishing from sight.

"Poor girl," Sarafina sighed, staring at the distant corpse.

There was a tense silence after that. Haiba sat, staring off into the distance as a single tear dropped to the ground.

"Well done, Haiba," Scar sneered. "That's the third time you've managed to get one of us killed in two days. What kind of guide are you?"

"I-I tried, okay?" Haiba said, sniffing as he looked up at Scar. "I didn't mean for any of this to happen."

"If it weren't for you, Tuhuma, Maarifa and Binamu would still be alive. Do you deny it?"

"Scar, lay him off!" Sarafina said. "Kamu'a and the other monsters are to blame, not him!"

"Sarafina, we are at risk as long as he is in command. This is only the second day of our tour. Look at how much we've had to go through already."

Haiba slunk out as Scar and Sarafina continued to argue, and he soon vanished into the jungle.

"Look at that. You made him run away. You need to stop acting like this, man."

"Please, listen to me, Sarafina. I care about you. I only want you to be safe."

Shocker and Hila stared at each other and grinned. Things might just work out for them after all...

"Haiba?" Nala asked as she slowly approached the cub. He was still sitting there, utterly distraught.

"What is it, Nala?"

"I wanted to see how you were doing."

"How do you think I'm doing?" Haiba snapped. "I feel horrible as it is without Scar yelling at me."

Nala placed a paw on Haiba's shoulder. "Look at me, Haiba," she said. Haiba turned and stared at her beautiful, angelic face.

"You're a good cub, Haiba. Those deaths were not your fault. If anyone's to blame, it's Kamu'a. He killed Maarifa, not you. And he might be why all of the other creatures are so aggressive."

"Yeah, but still, it's my responsibility to ensure your safety. I've definitely failed in that department."

"Just remember, you're our only chance of survival."

Haiba stared at Nala, and neither noticed as Scar walked away from them...

Scar returned to the group, and Simba walked up to him.

"How are they?" Simba asked. "I hope Haiba's okay..."

"Oh, he's more than okay," Scar reassured him, smiling. "In fact, I'd say he's quite...ecstatic."

"How come?" Simba asked. *I don't like the sound of this...*

"Well," Scar said as he moved towards Simba, "I saw Nala and Haiba...doing something."

"What?" Simba asked.

Scar took a deep breath, and then said, "I saw them kiss."

AN: Wow...that was quite a chapter, wasn't it? The triceratops attacked the group and killed Binamu, and now Scar is taking advantage of it to put his evil plan in action. What will happen next? You'll have to see, I guess.

AN: Hello once again! In last week's installment, a massive Triceratops killed Binamu, and Scar used the event to attack Haiba, and he told Simba that Nala and Haiba kissed. Where will this lead? Let's take a look...

The Island

Chapter Fourteen: Make Your Choice

"What?" Simba could not believe what he had just heard.

"It's true," Scar said, wearing a grave expression. "I wish I could say otherwise."

"He flirts with everything," Shocker snarled. "How could you expect this to not happen?"

"Stay out of this!" Simba cried.

Nala and Haiba then emerged from the brush, completely unaware of what was happening.

"Guys?" Haiba asked. "What's going on?"

Simba then turned to Haiba, snarling. "I could ask you the same thing."

"Simba, what are you talking about?"

"You kissed my wife!"

"What? No! I'd like to, but I didn't! Honest!"

"You'll pay for this!" With that, Simba lunged at the guide, and the two cubs began clawing and scratching at each other.

"Simba, stop it!" Nala cried. But her pleas went unheeded, and soon Scar walked towards the fighting cubs, roaring as loud as

he could.

"All right, that's enough," he said. Simba and Haiba stopped and sat up on their haunches. Both were covered in bloody scratches, and they sat panting, exhausted.

Scar then turned to face the other tourists. "Everyone, take a look at this! Not only has your guide been so incompetent that his actions have resulted in the deaths of three of our own, but he had the nerve to kiss this young cub, who is already married, and then fight her husband! Is *this* what a true leader is like? Does a responsible lion in charge of the safety of a large group act like this? Of course not. This pitiful wastrel has spent his time kissing rocks, flirting with my lioness, and doing nothing to ensure our survival!"

"Now, just a minute, you sausage!" Captain Interceptor walked right up to Scar, and the two lions stood facing each other.

"Haiba is an excellent guide. These deaths are not his fault."

"A better leader is needed," Scar said, snarling.

"Are you saying *you* are a better leader?"

Scar then smiled his sinister smile. "Precisely."

Captain Interceptor prepared to attack Scar, but he soon found himself surrounded by electrical energy, and gasped before falling unconscious to the ground. Shocker stood behind him, slowly removing his still-crackling paw from the captain's hind leg.

"You'll all listen to him now," Shocker said, wearing a smile similar to Scar's.

The tourists stood dumbstruck. What were they to think? Scar and Shocker had outright attacked the captain, but didn't they have some valid claims? After all, Tuhuma, Maarifa, and Binamu were dead. And Haiba had just fought Simba. Should they have believed Nala and Haiba, or Scar?

Nala walked up to Scar and growled at him. "I'll never listen to a word you say."

"Then you can stay with Haiba and rot in this filthy, monster-infested jungle. Is that what you want?"

"I'll never follow you."

"Make your choice, everyone!" Scar cried. "Either follow me to safety, or stay with these fools and die! Take your pick."

Shocker, Hila, and Moto walked over towards Scar. Tama, Tojo, Tara, and Aibu followed them.

Simba, Nala, and Haiba walked over to the unconscious Interceptor. Zazu and Pori flapped over to the same spot, and Wazimu joined them as well.

Only Sarafina remained in the center. She looked at Haiba, then at Scar, and then back at Haiba again.

"Sarafina," Scar said, "think about this. You've known me for five months. You've known Haiba for three days. We've had a wonderful relationship, and you barely know him. Shouldn't it be obvious which one of us you should join?"

The lioness sighed, and walked over to Scar. "On one condition," she said. "If even one of these guys needs help at any time, you're gonna, like, give it to them. Okay?"

"Fine." With that, Scar walked off, followed by those who had decided to listen to him.

Moto then walked next to Sarafina. "You've made this a lot better, yo! Heh heh..."

Haiba continued to watch as the group disappeared, and Sarafina along with it.

"She's—she's gone," he said, sniffing. "And it's all my fault." He then turned to Simba. "I shouldn't have fought you."

Simba smiled at him. "It's okay. I guess I should ask now... Is it

true?"

"No," Nala said. "It's not. I only went back there to comfort him."

Simba then stared into her eyes. He knew just by looking at them that she was speaking the truth.

"I'm sorry," he said, hanging his head low. "I'll never doubt either of you again."

"It's okay," said Nala, nuzzling him.

"Scar lied to me," Simba said, growling. "I see it all now. I should have known ever since I first laid eyes on that creep. He wants to be in charge, and he wants Sarafina to be all his. More likely than not, he wants money and fame, and sees her as the best way to get it. He preyed on your guilt and my love for Nala, and now he's led them all to their deaths. I can tell."

"That supercilious scoundrel," Haiba said. "They're all in danger as long as he's in charge."

Captain Interceptor began to stir, and slowly rose to his paws. He looked around, and noticed how the group was considerably smaller. "What happened here?" he asked.

Nala decided to explain the situation. "Shocker...electro-frazzled you, and Scar made the others believe he'd lead them to safety."

The captain then gazed in the direction where they had gone. "That sausage... If he knew where he was going, he'd know how wrong he is."

"We'll follow them," Haiba said. "We'll show them who's really looking out for them."

Wazimu then spoke up. "Between Scar and Kamu'a, and all who follow them, there's a lot of evil on this island."

As soon as he said this, an enormous crashing sounded through

the jungle, and a bone-chilling roar echoed throughout the landscape. The cubs and lions turned around to behold a beast that they hadn't seen since the previous night. A monstrous lava-colored dragon-lizard with horns and spikes on his head and back, and eyes that seethed with pure, unfiltered evil.

Kamu'a had returned.

AN: This story just keeps getting darker and darker, doesn't it? I bet all of you really hate Scar by now...but then again, it isn't really him if he isn't as despicable as can be. And the group is split up! Not a good sign, eh? And what of Kamu'a finally showing up again? Come back next time to see the good guys face off against the evil god.

AN: Hello once more! Due to something in our personal lives, I am posting this chapter a few minutes early. After the shocking chapter last week, let's see how things fare for our heroes...

The Island

Chapter Fifteen: Return of Kamu'a

Simba, Nala, Haiba, Interceptor, Zazu, Pori, and Wazimu stared up at the mighty monolith of a monster that appeared before them. His glowing lava-colored scales almost blinded them, and his terrible hissing sent shivers up their spines.

"Okay, what do we do, genius?" Nala whispered to Simba.

"Why are you asking me? These two should have the answer, right?" He indicated to Haiba and Interceptor, who shook their heads in response.

"He's toying with us," Haiba said. "All he's doing is making us scared before he goes for the kill."

"Well," Zazu said as he shivered, "he's doing a fine job of it."

Kamu'a growled again, displaying his sharp fangs for all of them to see.

"Okay," Interceptor said, "I have a plan." Once the group gathered into a circle, he whispered, "I'll attack him while you guys all run... or fly. I'll catch up with you."

"What? You're crazy!" Haiba said.

"Trust me on this. I know what I'm doing."

With that, the lion leapt onto the mighty monster's side, attempting to dig his claws into the evil god's scaly hide. Kamu'a roared to the sky, even though he felt no pain. This was defiance. A pitiful little mammal had dared to challenge him! He would not stand for this. The gigantic beast reared up on his hind legs, standing taller than every tree on the island, or any animal that ever lived, but still the captain clung to the beast.

The cubs, birds, and Wazimu took the chance to spring away as fast as they could. As they got smaller with distance, Captain Interceptor dropped to the ground and followed them, paying no attention as Kamu'a crashed back onto the ground on all four legs and began to pursue the tourists at top speed, roaring as he went.

"He's catching up!" Nala said. "What are we going to do?"

"I don't know," Simba said. "I hate to say this, but I think running is our only option!"

"Or flying, if you're a bird," Zazu shouted as he sped off with Pori.

"Hey! That's not fair!" Simba said.

Kamu'a roared again as he continued to chase the group, hell-bent on destroying them all...

"Well, any other ideas, Haiba?" Captain Interceptor asked.

"No," Haiba responded as they continued running.

Suddenly, four massive purple elephantine legs appeared, blocking the tourists' path. The tourists looked up to see an

enormous brachiosaurus with a long neck and tail, domed head, and stocky body. The dinosaur bellowed in fear and reared up upon beholding Kamu'a, who rushed toward it.

The cubs dodged out of the way as quickly as they could, with Interceptor and Wazimu catching up. They then turned to watch the fight.

Kamu'a lunged for the beast's soft stomach, but it crashed back down on all fours, sending the evil god's head colliding with the ground. Kamu'a backed out from under the creature and hissed again, moving his massive tail from side to side.

The brachiosaur bellowed at Kamu'a, determined to fight for its life. Kamu'a smiled before jumping onto the dinosaur's side, and the two beasts began thrashing each other, tumbling along the ground and destroying the nearby vegetation.

"I think we've seen enough," Haiba said. "Let's get out of here while they're still fighting."

"Good idea," Simba said.

The lions ran off as fast as they could, confident that Kamu'a would not notice while he was engaged in battle with the dinosaur.

The prehistoric titans continued to struggle, decimating everything in their path, and inflicting vicious wounds on each other. However, it was no surprise as to who was winning the fight. The brachiosaur was covered in gashes and scars, while Kamu'a hardly bore a single scratch.

At last, the great beast moved in for the kill. The inside of his mouth glowed red hot, and his clawed limbs began to glow as well. He dug his claws into the dinosaur's hide, scorching it, and it bellowed again as it fell on its side. Kamu'a then grabbed the long neck in his enormous maw, and crunched down.

The bloody deed done, Kamu'a roared to the skies to let every living being on the island know of his victory, before leaning

down and beginning his gruesome feast.

AN: Well, this was quite a chapter, wasn't it? Now it's even easier to see why Kamu'a is the king of Kadalo...At least the heroes escaped. Now they can continue their pursuit of Scar and the others.

Come back next time to witness the horrors that Scar and the other tourists encounter in the swamps of Kadalo...

AN: Hello once again! Last week, we saw the reappearance of Kamu'a, the supreme evil on the island. Simba and the others very narrowly managed to escape them. Now they're on Scar's trail, so let's see what dangers he's put the others in...

The Island

Chapter Sixteen: The Swamp

Scar, Sarafina, Shocker, Hila, Moto, Tama, Tojo, Tara, and Aibu continued walking through the jungle, which became darker and more foreboding as they went on.

"Do you even know where you're going?" Sarafina asked the red lion. "So far, it looks like we're just aimlessly wandering around."

"Trust me, Sarafina. I know what I'm doing."

"Hmm... Sure you do."

The group walked on until they reached the end of the path. Scar was the first to step out and see what lay beyond, and the others slowly followed him.

They were now at the edge of a swamp, with tall trees and green plants covering every inch of the landscape, and bluish-black water concealing everything within its depths. A faint mist blanketed it all, blurring the view of the other side. Small branches and logs stuck out from the mud on the banks, and reeds and palm fronds jutted out from the shallows.

A small viper slithered on a branch above them, watching. Cub-sized dragonflies buzzed about, hunting for prey. Pteranodons flew over the swamp, shrieking incessantly. A crocodile slept in the shallows roughly 50 feet to the right of the lions. A juvenile Allosaur, much smaller than its adult counterparts, came to the shore and bent down for a drink.

Scar stared out at this eerie sight, lost in thought.

"So what are we going to do?" Shocker asked. "We can't just stand here on the bank all day."

"Patience, Shocker," Scar said as he held up a claw. "I'm thinking. We need some way to cross this swamp. I don't think swimming is an option. That crocodile over there would hear us splashing, and more likely than not, there's more of them out there. We can hardly even see the other shore."

"So what are our options?" Tama asked.

"Well, I think I see a log out there in the reeds. It looks large enough to fit all of us. If we wade out to where it is, we can climb on it, and with the help of the various sticks over here, we can row it to the other side."

"Good call," Hila said, smiling.

With that, they slowly waded into the dark water, and began to swim through the reeds.

About ten minutes later, the group had reached the log, and they climbed onto it, out of the black, grimy, reed-filled waters.

"Well," Scar said, "we can begin now. You can remove our paddles from your mouths, and we can begin rowing."

Sarafina and the cubs did as commanded, and they managed to push through the reeds and out into the open swamp water.

The makeshift raft and its occupants were microscopic in comparison to the enormous swamp, but this did not deter the

lions from attempting to reach the other side.

A large ripple appeared on the water, and Sarafina immediately noticed it.

"Scar, I think I saw something."

"It's not a surprise. What else would you expect?"

"Yeah, but this looked...big, yo."

"I don't doubt that. But if we don't focus on where we're headed, we'll never get there."

Just beyond a particularly thick layer of mist, a long neck slowly lifted itself out of the water, before making a low hissing sound and diving again.

"Listen," Shocker said. "I hear something."

The mist cleared, and without warning, a serpentine creature reared out of the water, covered in black scales with a golden underbelly, and possessing numerous needle-sharp fangs. Everyone screamed, and the beast lifted a long flipper out of the water before slapping it down, sending a ripple that knocked Tara, Aibu, and Tojo into the water.

"Help!" Tara cried. "Don't just sit there, you preps!"

"What is that thing?" Hila asked, gasping at the sight of the hungry creature as it swam after the three cubs.

"It's a plesiosaur!" Sarafina said.

The plesiosaur lowered its neck to grab Tara before lifting itself back to its regular height. It bit down on her before tossing her back into the water. The cub screamed again as she fell into the swampy depths, and the long-necked monster dived in after her. When it reared back up, it opened and closed its mouth several times, before turning its attention to Aibu and Tojo.

Tara was gone.

The two cubs swam desperately, terrified of meeting Tara's fate, before Sarafina jumped in, grabbing Tojo by the scruff and holding Aibu under her arm, and swam back to the log with them.

The beast then picked up speed, creating an enormous wave as it came closer and closer and closer..

AN: Man...that was a frightening chapter, wasn't it? And I've left you on another cliffhanger! Well, come back next time to see if they get out or if the plesiosaur kills them all.

AN: Hello yet again! Last week, I left you on quite a cliffhanger. Scar's group attempted to cross the swamp, only for a massive plesiosaur to attack them. Will it succeed in devouring them? Let's see...

The Island

Chapter Seventeen: Resume the Search

"What do we do? What do we do?" Aibu asked as he cowered, clinging to the log with his claws. The massive wake caused by the plesiosaur sped closer and closer and closer, until it was a mere 20 feet away from the log.

"Follow me, everyone!" Sarafina said. Without warning, she turned around and jumped off the other side of the log and into the water. Scar realized what she had done, and he followed her in.

"Okay, here's how we'll do it," Shocker said. "Tojo, you carry Tama on your back. Hila, you carry me. Aibu, you carry Moto. Got it?"

"Why do I have to carry Moto?" Aibu asked, whining.

"Just do it! We don't have time to argue!"

With that, the cubs jumped into the swampy water and swam away as the mighty plesiosaur reared up and crashed onto the

log like a whale plunging into the sea. The vicious creature snarled, noticed its prey swimming away from it, and sped after them.

"What do we do now, geniuses?" Tama asked as the serpentine monster continued to pursue them.

Soon the monstrous creature was right behind them, and it raised its long neck, about to lean in for the kill...

Then, suddenly, the terrible cry of a hungry Allosaurus reverberated through the swamp, and the plesiosaur turned and dove under the water, speeding away so quickly that the spray of water disappeared in less than two seconds.

Everyone sighed in relief.

"Let's not celebrate yet," Scar said. "We'll save that for when we get to shore."

With that, they continued to paddle through the swampy water...

Night had finally set on Kadalo, and the island was blanketed with a beautiful starry sky. Simba, Nala, Haiba, Captain Interceptor, and Wazimu walked through the jungle, with Zazu and Pori hovering above them.

"It's really pretty out here tonight," Nala said as she gazed up at the stars.

"Yeah," Simba said, agreeing. "I'm just glad we found that bend and didn't have to go through the swamp."

"That's the benefit of sticking with the guide!" Haiba said, smiling. "I'm looking out for all of you."

Nala turned to him. "We're looking out for you too."

The guide smiled, touched by Nala's kind words. "Thanks, Nala."

"Well," said Interceptor, yawning, "I think we ought to lie down

and get some shuteye. We're going to need a lot of energy tomorrow."

"Amen to that," Haiba agreed.

With that, the animals nestled down into the jungle grass, and all was silent.

"Yes, I know, I know," said Hago as he stared up at his divine master. The villainous lion was standing directly in front of Kamu'a, with the Mungu Pride right behind him. The red-hot reptilian god had called them all to him.

"You fools let them get away on the night of the sacrifice," Kamu'a said, growling. Only Hago could hear the deep, hoarse voice, which was why he served as the god's high priest.

"I know we did," Hago said, annoyed. "But today, you had them in your grasp. You could have killed them yourself, you know."

"Don't talk back to me, Hago!" Kamu'a roared. *"It's your job to serve me. You all exist to carry out my every whim!"*

"Well, what is your order for us, oh great one? Your wish is my command."

"In that case, resume the search. I happen to know that the group split in two today, and the two females I want for my sacrifice are split up. The cub is in the group I attacked today, while the lioness is with the other group. Find them both and kill as many of the others as need be."

"Anything else, oh greatest of gods?"

"When you find yourself needing to kill the other visitors, make every death as slow and painful as possible."

Hago chuckled. "I have no problem with that..."

"Exactly. Our minds are seamlessly intertwined, Hago. Now, go and find them."

With that, the mighty behemoth turned and crashed through the jungle, leaving the Mungu Pride waiting for Hago's command.

"We will resume our search," Hago announced. "Come! Let us find the sacrifices for the great Kamu'a!"

"Hail Kamu'a! Hail Kamu'a!"

AN: Yet again, I manage to shock you all! Not only did Sarafina use her wits to get everyone out of certain death at the jaws of the plesiosaur, but we got to see more of Hago and Kamu'a. Not only that, but we got to hear the evil god speak! I hope you liked that part. Villains are quite fun when they talk, even when they're monsters.

AN: Hello once again! Last week, Scar's group escaped the hungry plesiosaur, and we witnessed a late night meeting between Kamu'a and his cult. Let's see what happens when the sun rises...

The Island

Chapter Eighteen: A Gentle Moment

The sun began to rise over the island, once again soaking it in a beautiful light. Scar was already awake, and showed no expression as he stared out into the jungle.

It's interesting how things have turned out. So far, these fools still believe I care for their safety. After all, Tara's the only one I've lost, compared to how Haiba fared. I wouldn't be surprised if most of the idiots on his side are already dead. In fact, that would be... delightful.

He grinned on this last thought. Such thoughts always brightened his mood...

I'd like to rip that impudent little Simba to bits. But then again, none of this would have happened without him. So should I be

thankful? In a way, but I'll still kill him if he hasn't been already.

He soon heard the padding of paws behind him, and he smiled as Sarafina sat next to him.

"Yo! Did you sleep well?" she asked.

"I did, actually," he said. For once, he actually meant what he said.

"That's nice, man." She then nuzzled his neck, burying her head in his glossy black mane. *Oh, yeah... One point for you, Scar.*

The lion smiled gently at this. If there was one thing that warmed Scar's icy heart, it was Sarafina. Certainly her fame and money were the prime motivators in his initial pursuit of her, but over time, he had come to genuinely care for her, something he never thought possible. This did not change his general nature, but it calmed his temper somewhat. He would always be callous and cruel to everyone else around him, but Sarafina mattered. She wasn't like the other pointless insects he was forced to endure the mere existence of. She stood tall. She was the only being in the universe that stood almost equal footing with him. To him, they were gods.

"So, what are we doing today?" she asked. "Are we gonna get killed by more bloodthirsty monsters?"

"Not you and I," he said, smiling. "The others I can't guarantee, obviously, but we'll try our best."

"All right."

The two lions stared out into the jungle, contemplating how to ensure the group's survival.

"Scar... I kinda miss the other guys."

Scar sighed deeply. "Sarafina, I know how you feel. I know you were against the split from the start. Believe me, if there was a way I could have prevented that, I would have jumped at the

chance. But it's for the best. We're safer. *You're* safer."

She turned to look at him, smiled, and gave him a lick on the cheek.

In another part of the jungle, another pair was also staring off into the jungle as the rest of the party slept.

"Simba," Nala asked, "do you think we're gonna make it?"

"Sure we will, Nala. We've just got to have a little faith."

"What do you mean?"

"We just need to believe we can make it through."

"We should never have come here," Nala said before sinking to the ground and burying her face in her arm.

Simba gently stroked her on the back. "It's okay, it's okay. Personally, I'm glad we came."

"You are?"

"Sure I am. Look at all the beautiful sights we've seen! Look at all the awesome lions we've met."

"And hornbills."

"Exactly. And isn't it cool seeing all these amazing creatures? Most never get that chance."

"Most don't get brutally murdered by living dinosaurs and oversized seafood either."

"True."

"And Kamu'a...I can't even...he and Scar both. I hate them. I hate them so much."

"I do too, Nala."

The two cubs sat in silence after that. They knew what they were getting into when they came, but neither of them had

expected the honeymoon to be like this. The last thing Simba had on his mind when he stood at the altar was the possibility of encountering a lava-red dragon god during his honeymoon, and Nala certainly had no thoughts of a cold-hearted film critic putting the lives of innocent lions in danger. All they thought of was each other, and now that was exactly what they had.

They had each other. For the moment, that would be enough.

AN: That was quite a change of pace, wasn't it? We got to see Scar and Sarafina have some romantic interaction, as well as Simba and Nala. Seems maybe the two pairs aren't as different as they seem...

We'll be back to the action next time, of course. And things will only get more intense from here on out...

AN: Hello yet again! Last week, we had another quiet moment. Not this time. We're back to the action this time...

The Island

Chapter Nineteen: Chase Through the Jungle

"So where are we headed exactly?" Simba asked as the group pushed its way through the dense jungle growth.

"Well..." said Haiba, "it's a little on the left side, or maybe a bit to the right..."

"So what you're saying is that you have absolutely no idea what you're doing?"

"I do, actually. I'm not in this area very often, and this isn't our usual route, obviously. I think we're close to one of the beaches, so if we get there, we can get a sense of just where we are."

"Oh, okay."

The group continued to wander through the jungle, and Nala

turned to Captain Interceptor.

"Do you think we'll ever see the others again?" she asked him.

He sighed. "Who knows, little lass? With Scar in the lead, it's doubtful, but something tells me Sarafina will make it through."

"Oh, yeah. She's a fighter, all right."

"You are too, you know. You're the one who was brave enough to stand up to Scar."

"Thank you," she said, smiling.

Suddenly, a loud grunting sound began echoing through the jungle, and Haiba cocked one of his ears to listen.

"If that's what I think it is, we'd best be on our guard."

The lions began creeping along quietly, not wishing to catch the attention of the hidden animal, before they finally saw it walking about 20 feet ahead of them.

Wandering through the greenery was an enormous quadrupedal beast with vibrant blue scales, a lizard-like head with a sharp beak, two rows of orange diamond-shaped plates on its back, and two pairs of spikes on its long tail.

"It's a stegosaurus," Wazimu said, astonished.

The colossal creature grazed quietly, but then lifted its head and began sniffing the air.

"Be quiet so he doesn't see us," Haiba said.

The creature continued sniffing, but then it turned and saw the intruders in the distance. With an angry roar, the stegosaurus lumbered towards them.

"No! He's gonna charge!" cried Simba as the massive beast came nearer and nearer.

"Run!" Haiba shouted, and the entire group began to flee from the mighty stegosaur. The massive beast kept pace, and tore up

every bit of undergrowth in its path.

"How can we get away from this thing?" Nala asked.

"Just keep running!" answered the captain.

Nala looked behind her in terror as the stegosaur came closer and closer...

Sarafina perked up her ears, listening to the strange sounds echoing through the jungle. It sounded like someone was in trouble, given all the roaring and screaming she could hear.

"Can you hear that?" she asked.

"Ah, it's nothing, yo," Moto said, waving a paw. "It's just someone screaming...and stuff."

Sarafina growled. How could this slimy little rat clearly hear someone in distress and brush it off just like that? She didn't understand it.

The sounds became louder and louder, and soon Haiba's group burst out of the brush, still being pursued by the angry stegosaurus.

Scar smiled and watched, but his smile quickly turned to a frown when he saw Sarafina bolting towards them.

"What are you doing?" he asked. "You could get trampled!"

She paid no attention to him, and instead leapt at the dinosaur as she would a buffalo, only this buffalo was covered in armored scales and was considerably larger. The enraged reptile turned and roared at her, but she sunk her fangs and claws as deep into its scaly hide as she could.

Captain Interceptor noticed this, and ran towards the beast before leaping onto its other side and mimicking Sarafina's actions. The mighty monster tried desperately to shake off its attackers, but they clung on tightly, and finally the beast let itself collapse to the ground, worn out by the chase and from

the sheer stress of being attacked. The captain was careful to jump off before he could be crushed, and soon the animal was lying on its side, with Sarafina standing proudly on top.

"Ha! Gotcha." She looked down at the dinosaur and smirked before jumping off.

"I have to say, that was quite an incredible display," said the captain. "You know, when I was a cub, I remember girl cubs being, as I put it, 'spineless brainless cowards that couldn't defend themselves from a rabid caterpillar.' Clearly you were never that type."

"Nope. Not by a long shot."

With that, Interceptor and Sarafina rejoined their respective groups, but before either group could get going, Tama and Tojo spoke up.

"We're joining them now," Tama said to Scar. "I'd rather be with a guide I can trust."

"Me too!" squeaked Tojo.

The two cubs walked over to Haiba's group, and they all slowly walked past the stegosaurus as it slipped into unconsciousness...

AN: Another tense sequence, eh? Stegosaurus are rather interesting opponents... Of course, I have a personal attachment to these creatures, given I'm lucky enough to own the head of the model stegosaurus from *King Kong*. Naturally, that scene was a key influence on this chapter.

AN: Hello once again! Last week, an angry stegosaurus chased the group before Sarafina saved them, and Tama and Tojo rejoined the good guys. You may remember they were heading to the beach to pinpoint their location on the island. Let's see what happens when they get there...

The Island

Chapter Twenty: The Carcass

"I'm glad you decided to rejoin us, guys," Haiba said to Tama and Tojo as the group trudged through the jungle.

"No problem!" Tojo said in his distinctive squeaky voice. "I didn't really like Scar much. He's too mean."

"Yeah," Tama said as she nodded in agreement. "All he ever talked about was how much better a guide he was. And those other cubs..."

"I dumped both Shocker and Hila for a reason," Nala said, frowning. "I regret having ever dated either of them."

"Because now you have me!" Simba said, giving her his best cheesy grin.

"Yep. Because I have you." She nuzzled him, causing Zazu to smile.

Within the hour, the animals could hear the sound of crashing waves, and they knew they had reached their destination.

"All right, guys," Haiba said. "Remember, we're here for navigational purposes. I'll be able to figure out where we are, and then we can figure out what to do."

"Sounds like a plan," Captain Interceptor said.

The group members walked out of the jungle and onto the sand, embracing the cool sea air and walking along the characteristic pink sand, when Simba noticed something.

"Look, guys!" he said, indicating with his head to what he was looking at.

The sight that fell upon the group was quite unlike any they had seen on the island before. Several large allosaurs were tearing away at a colossal carcass, their green heads stained with the red blood of their prey. The carcass was a dark, rubbery creature larger than the allosaurs, and as it turned out, quite

recognizable as well.

"It's a humpback whale!" Wazimu exclaimed.

The whale had probably washed up on the beach a day ago, as the body was still relatively fresh. The allosaurs tore away at the cetacean's carcass, and Simba began filming the mighty beasts.

"Just look at this," he said to himself as he filmed. "Not many animals get the chance to see something like this..."

The enormous reptiles continued to enjoy their meal, but one raised its head and sniffed the air. Simba immediately ducked, and the others followed suit. They laid low in the sand, hoping desperately that they would not be seen.

The same allosaur slowly walked away from the carcass, continuing to sniff the air as it strode along.

"He knows we're here," Tama whispered.

"W-what do we do?" Tojo asked.

"Just stay low to the ground," Haiba answered. "He might not see us if we stay motionless."

The mighty monster stomped his way across the beach, closer and closer and closer...

"Okay, we need a new plan," Captain Interceptor said.

Before anyone could say any more, the giant creature leaned down so that its head was directly above the group members, and it slowly examined them to confirm that he had found his quarry. There was a tense silence for some time, as the dinosaur merely stood above them, and the animals dared not move for fear that he would attack.

Suddenly, the creature stood tall and roared to his comrades, his bellow echoing into the jungle. The other dinosaurs looked up and walked away from the half-eaten humpback,

dangerously approaching the group.

Haiba sat watching the beasts, wondering what the best strategy would be. *Do we stay here and fight? Do we just run back into the jungle? Or do we dive into the sea?*

Haiba then jumped up, having made his choice. "Come on, everyone!" he said, motioning with a paw. "Follow me!"

"Where?" Simba asked.

"Into the sea!"

With that, the animals bolted up and ran past the mighty reptiles, as Zazu and Pori soared into the sky. The angry allosaurs chased after them, determined to devour these small snacks, when Haiba climbed up a massive rock on the edge of the beach. The others followed suit, and soon they were out of reach of the allosaurs, who bit and snapped and swayed their tails angrily.

Without another word, Haiba dove into the sea, followed by Simba, Nala, Haiba, Captain Interceptor, Tama, Tojo, and Wazimu.

Defeated, the allosaurs walked back to the dead whale and resumed their meal. As they dug into the carcass of the humpback, they forgot about their encounter with the tourists entirely.

AN: Well, that was quite a tense chapter, wasn't it? First you saw the allosaurs' eating habits, and then we had a tense chase on the beach. But believe me, what those tourists will encounter under the waves will be far more terrifying...

AN: Hello once again! Last week, our heroes reached the beach, and jumped into the sea to avoid some hungry allosaurs. What will they find beneath the waves? Let's dive in...

The Island

Chapter Twenty-One: Undersea Terror

As the lions swam through the sea, they couldn't help but marvel at the sheer beauty of the bright blue waters. Rainbow-colored coral reefs littered the seafloor, as fishes of all kinds and colors swarmed around them. Shrimps and crabs scuttled along as eels slithered through the waters, and a large sea turtle swam directly past Simba and Nala.

Wow! Simba thought. Too bad my camera can't take underwater pictures...

Nala smiled as she gazed upon the beautiful coral reefs and sea creatures.

This is the life. Me and Simba swimming along down here... exploring the beautiful briny sea.

Haiba gazed at the coral, his mind completely focused on the vibrant colors.

It's so beautiful...If only it loved me back...

The lions continued swimming until they found a large rock to rest on, and one by one, they all reached it.

Simba then swam to the surface for air, before Nala, Haiba, and the others followed him in successive order.

"It sure is pretty down there," Nala said.

"Yeah," Simba agreed. "But that rock down there feels a little weird...squishy, almost."

"I noticed that too. Let's go back down and take another look."

After breathing in a massive gulp of air, the two cubs dived back down and landed back on the rock, gently prodding the surface with their paws.

Suddenly, an enormous eye appeared on the side of the rock, and the top portion of the rock quickly changed into a blue-turquoise beast with tentacles and a thick body with fins. In

reality, it was a gigantic cuttlefish.

Simba and Nala swam away as rapidly as possible from the massive mollusk, and it slid off the rock in its pursuit of the cubs.

All right, how are we gonna get out of this one? Captain Interceptor asked himself. The captain had seen these creatures before, but never had he been in a situation where it was endangering the life of a tourist. However, he knew that, like all creatures of its kind, this beast was intelligent to the extreme, so outwitting it would be a tough task.

The cubs continued to swim ahead of their pursuer, and Captain Interceptor knew that if it managed to devour Simba and Nala, or even if they escaped, it would simply come back to eat the others. Therefore, he beckoned everyone with a paw, and they all joined Simba and Nala.

The enormous cuttlefish approached them with terrifying speed, its tentacles flowing like gigantic sea snakes. Its sinister eyes never left their target, and its birdlike beak snapped in anticipation of the meal to come.

Haiba suddenly dived down and grabbed a medium-sized rock on the seafloor before swimming back up and throwing it at the creature's eye. As the cephalopod clutched its eye with a tentacle, Haiba swam towards a distant underwater cavern, and everyone quickly turned to follow him.

The enraged monster turned itself around and squirted a cloud of ink to propel itself towards them, before turning back around and resuming the chase.

It had no plans of stopping. It would not rest until it had eaten every single one of the furry creatures that had invaded its home.

But they had no plans of getting eaten, either. Once the cave was in sight, they entered at top speed, and after Tojo was the last to vanish into the darkness, the frustrated cuttlefish

attempted to follow them into the cave. However, it soon became aware of the fact that the cave entrance was only big enough for one of its tentacles, and it desperately attempted to squeeze through. However, despite its natural ability to squeeze into small spaces, there was no possibility of the creature succeeding in its goal, so it simply sat there, stuck. There was no chance of it getting a meal today.

"Well, what do we do now?" Nala asked. "On one hand, we're safe from that creepy cuttlefish in this cave, but now we don't have anywhere to go."

"Actually," Haiba answered, "I think this cave leads back to the interior."

"What about this?" asked Simba. He pointed to a strange carving on the cave wall.

Haiba bounded to the carving, which depicted a black circle, probably a representation of the cave, along with an arrow pointed to a sketch of a jungle, and then, to a strange stone structure.

Haiba's eyes widened greatly, and he turned to the group and smiled.

"Guys, we have the key!"

"What is it?" Tojo asked.

"Well, this shows us that the cave leads directly back into the jungle. Apparently, not too far from the other entrance is a very important place."

"What place is that?" Captain Interceptor asked.

"The Temple of Kamu'a."

AN: Well, that was quite a thrilling chapter, wasn't it? I saw some real cuttlefish at our local aquarium last week, so that definitely helped with writing this chapter. And now we've

discovered the route to the Temple of Kamu'a! The climax is fast approaching...

AN: Unfortunately, this chapter could not be posted at the usual time due to a severe technological error. Thankfully, I managed to get it up here for you all. Last week, our heroes faced off against a giant cuttlefish, escaped into an underwater cave, and found directions to the Temple of Kamu'a. Will they reach it? And just where is Scar's group? Read and find out...

The Island

Chapter Twenty-Two: Approaching the Temple

"The Temple of Kamu'a?" Nala asked. "Why should we go there?"

"Because," Haiba answered, "it could be the key to defeating him."

"How so?" asked Captain Interceptor.

"Well, it's his temple. There's bound to be something in there. A power source, some hidden secret..."

Simba was smiling broadly. Not only could the lions potentially rid the island of the evil god, but they would be getting a chance to explore an ancient temple!

"Well," the captain said, "it's worth a try, at the very least. At any rate, it's better than aimlessly wandering through the jungle like we have been."

"That's true," Tama said. "Well, Tojo, do you look forward to seeing the Temple of Kamu'a?"

"Uh..." Tojo squeaked, "No, Tama. I don't."

"Oh, come on, Tojo. It'll be fun!"

"If you say so..."

Haiba raised a paw into the air, and the two cubs stopped talking.

"Follow me," he said. "Let's not waste any time."

With that, he bounded his way down the passage, and the lions followed him every step of the way.

"Oh, dear me..." Zazu said, sighing as he flew above the island with Pori. "I hope they haven't drowned or been eaten by some large sea creature."

"What should we do, Zebu?" Pori asked.

Zazu took a deep breath, and said, "Let's fly back over into the jungle. We might catch sight of them there."

With that, the two birds departed.

"I hate this jungle," Shocker said, growling as they wandered through the thick tropical growth. "All these plants are in my way!"

"You *could* get rid of them very easily, you know," Hila said, smiling.

"Oh, right." Shocker grinned evilly as he fired an electrical blast, quite literally blazing a trail for the group.

"Whoa, dude..." Moto said, staring at the result. "That's totally out there, yo."

"Quite impressive, young one," Scar said, smiling. The lanky lion walked down the new path, followed by Sarafina and the cubs, including Aibu in the very back.

"What's that over there?" Sarafina asked, indicating an enormous structure visible in the distance.

"That, my love," Scar said, "appears to be a temple."

After roughly an hour, the group finally arrived at the very edge of the gigantic temple, which was built out of grey stone and had three massive conical structures on top. Most of the ancient ruins were covered by vines and tree roots, and there were carvings and statues all over the temple, all of which depicted one being: Kamu'a.

"I think we know the purpose of this temple," Scar said.

They continued to marvel at the monumental structure, which was even larger than a conventional temple, considering the size of the deity it was built in honor of.

"Just think," Aibu said. "There could be riches in there. Treasures beyond our wildest dreams. Perhaps even some sort of supernatural power...one that could make you a god like him."

Scar stared at the temple and smiled. *If what he just said turns out to be true, there is no way he'll get it before I do.*

"Ha! I'm a god already," Shocker said. "After all, normal cubs don't have electricity in their paws."

As the group climbed up the massive stone steps, a low growling echoed through the temple. It was definitely not Kamu'a. However, it still sounded large...

"Don't worry about it," Scar said, smiling. "Shocker's power combined with my intellect and the advantageous hiding places here will prevent catastrophe."

A massive allosaurus stepped into view, slowly swaying its tail and sniffing the air.

"I have an idea," Hila said as the enormous reptile searched for a meal. "Why don't we have Moto as live bait?"

"What?" the grungy cub cried. "Not cool, man!"

"It makes total sense," Hila said. "It'll just think you're a rotting carcass. Then all of us *cool* cubs can escape."

Before any more could be said, the dinosaur charged.

AN: Well, one group's heading toward the temple, and the other is already there. What will happen when the two groups meet? Or will they, given the allosaur now aims to eat those that have arrived at the temple.

On another note, I am very pleased regarding the success of *Flight*, and I am glad to see those of you who have read it are enjoying it so far. Congratulations to Anthony! You deserve it, my friend.

AN: Hello once again! I bet you've all been waiting eagerly to see what happens after last week's nasty cliffhanger...Hang on to your safari hats, everyone.

By the way, in case you didn't see my post on the forum, *The Lion King* turns 20 today...Strange, isn't it? I bet some of us are feeling a little old now...

The Island

Chapter Twenty-Three: Dinosaur Death Battle

"Run!" Sarafina cried as the huge allosaurus charged at the group.

The lions sprinted away from the emerald reptile as quickly as possible, but its size and speed ensured it would keep pace with its intended prey. The massive beast roared and snapped its lizardlike jaws as it continued the chase.

"What do we do now?" Aibu asked.

"Just keep running, you idiot!" Shocker answered.

The enormous allosaurus leaned over the two cubs, opening his jaws and roaring again.

"Help us!" Aibu screamed as the massive dinosaur came closer to him and Shocker.

"Fend for yourself, coward," Shocker said as he sprinted away.

"No! You can't do this to me!" the cub cried. "Why, when I catch up with you, I'll—No! No!"

The allosaur leaned down and grabbed Aibu with its jaws before lifting itself upright again. As Aibu screamed, the dinosaur tilted its head towards the sky and opened its jaws so the cub would slide into them easily.

"No! No! No! No!"

That instant, the dinosaur's jaws slammed shut.

Aibu would never be seen again.

The massive beast approached the others, who were now leaning up against a stone wall, and the dinosaur drooled at the prospect of devouring more lions.

Before it could strike again, a fearsome bellow echoed through the temple, and a massive blue stegosaurus—identical to the one that had chased Haiba's group earlier, if not the same specimen—made its way towards the bipedal carnivore.

The allosaur reared up so as to look as tall and imposing as possible, but the enormous, muscular titan before it showed no signs of fear. It opened its beaked jaws to bellow again, swiping its spiked tail to emphasize the damage it could do. The allosaur then roared and ran towards its formidable prey.

The stegosaur charged in turn, and the mighty behemoths began to battle. The allosaur bit and clawed at the bulky beast, while the stegosaur retaliated by hitting its opponent with its spiky tail and massive bulk. The allosaur was careful to avoid being hit in the leg, for there was no question that if the stegosaur's spikes were to hit the predator's knee, it would go down with ease.

The lions and cubs, microscopic in comparison to these ancient colossi, decided to wait no more. Scar led the way, as always,

and the felines left the scene without the battling beasts giving a second glance.

The allosaur roared again and dodged yet another swipe from the stegosaur's tail. The enormous beast let out another earth-shaking bellow as it charged like a bull elephant ready for the kill.

The massive beasts collided into each other, now determined to let the fight end as brutally as possible. The allosaur was biting and clawing with full force, and the stegosaur attacked with his tail and massive back plates, greatly injuring the mighty predator. The two beasts no longer had any intention of prolonging this battle. Only one of them would get out alive, and each would see to it that the other fell.

The prehistoric combatants had demolished most of the surrounding stone walls and structures during the battle, but one enormous wall still stood. The titanic terrors were now closer to it than they had been before, and by this point, both beasts were covered in bloody slices and scars. The stegosaur swung his spiked tail one last time, hitting the allosaur on its hip. The primeval predator roared louder than ever, and with a thousand times more fury than it had displayed the entire time, it leapt onto the mighty herbivore and clawed at the creature's side as if it were a dog tearing up a lawn. The four-legged monster began to sway, ready to collapse to the ground, before the allosaur gave a mighty shove with all of its strength, sending its dying prey crashing into the temple wall. The beast fell onto its side as the monumental wall crumbled, and the mortally wounded dinosaur was crushed under tons upon tons of rubble.

The allosaur had won.

Carefully, the dinosaur began to remove the debris by picking it up with its jaws and tossing it to the side. Soon it uncovered its now deceased opponent, and it leaned down before tearing into its meal. Never had a meal felt so hard-earned, or so satisfying.

AN: I have to say, this is probably one of my favorite chapters in a very long time. What did you all think? Not only did Aibu get eaten, but you were all treated to a spectacular dinosaur battle the likes of which has perhaps not been seen since before we were born. I hope you all enjoyed that.

Also of note, a few days ago it was announced that Disney Junior will be producing a new *TLK* TV show called *The Lion Guard*, starring a reworked version of Kopa and several new non-lion characters. It'll probably be interesting, but let's face it, we'd all rather watch *TLKA* on TV. Why have a bunch of random animals when you could have Haiba, Hago, Shocker, Interceptor, or even Nyoka?

AN: Hello once again! Last week, you witnessed a spectacular dinosaur battle in the middle of the temple. I'm very glad you all loved it so. But today, our tension comes from a different situation...Read and see...

The Island

Chapter Twenty-Four: Confrontation

"That was amazing!" Simba cried. "Too bad we didn't see more, though."

Simba, Nala, Haiba, Captain Interceptor, Tama, Tojo, and Professor Wazimu had secretly entered the temple through the underwater passage, and arrived just in time to watch and photograph the last part of the titanic battle. However, now they only had one mission in mind: Follow Scar's group and intercept them.

"So let me get this straight," the captain said. "We're just going to follow them around the temple, and simply wait for the right time to strike?"

"Basically," Haiba said. "We just need to be stealthy...and sneaky."

"I've always been called the Master of Sneakiness," Simba said, smiling at Nala. "Maybe I'll show you all the ropes."

"That would be useful right now," Haiba said, smiling. "Come on, everyone!"

With that, the lions crept along the ground, weaving their way through the stone formations, and keeping pace with Scar's group as much as possible.

"Whoever said you were the Master of Sneakiness is right," Haiba said. "If not for your skills, we might have been seen by now."

"See? Told ya." Simba said, donning his signature smirk. Nala playfully rolled her eyes, and the group continued on its way.

"So where are we even going?" Sarafina asked. "I feel like you never tell me anything until, like, the last minute."

"Patience, Sarafina," Scar said. "We're merely exploring the temple. Who knows what we might find?"

The lions continued walking, and as they walked, Scar perked up his ears.

"There's something following us," he said.

"What is it?" Shocker asked.

"I don't know," Scar answered.

"It could be that Mungu Pride," Hila said. "They seemed pretty bent on getting rid of us."

"Or maybe a small dinosaur," Shocker said.

"I'm hoping for some hot lionesses, yo," Moto said.

"Shut up, Moto!" Shocker cried. "Why would some lionesses be following us? Use your brain. Or do you even have one?"

"No need for arguing," Scar said. "We're supposed to be unified,

now that we split from that useless Haiba and the blinded fools that still follow him."

"Blinded fools?" Nala asked Simba as they watched from behind a rock. "What does he take us for?"

"He just said it, didn't he?"

"God, I hate him. He lied to you, made you think I was cheating on you, tricked you into fighting Haiba, and splitting from the group just so he could be in charge. Not to mention blaming Haiba for those deaths."

"Ugh, don't remind me," Simba said, sighing.

"Scar, I think I just heard someone whispering," Shocker said.

"It had better not be who I think it is..." Scar said, growling.

At that second, Captain Interceptor launched himself out of the brush and tackled Scar to the ground. Shocker ran towards the two lions, but Simba and Haiba ambushed the electric cub on either side, pinning him down as well. Nala flew towards Hila and pinned him to the ground with ease, while Tama grabbed Moto and kept him trapped in her paws. Tojo and Professor Wazimu merely stood at the sidelines.

"Let go of us now!" Scar said, roaring at Captain Interceptor. "We'll be civil, I promise."

Captain Interceptor remained skeptical, but nonetheless let Scar up. When the red lion merely stood up and did nothing, this encouraged the cubs to let go of their opponents.

Afterwards, Scar turned towards Haiba and scowled at him.

"What do you want?" he asked.

"The same thing you do," Haiba answered.

"And what might that be?"

"Being leader of the group. But here's the difference: It's my *job* to lead you all through here and make sure you stay safe."

"You didn't exactly succeed in that one, did you?"

"Only because of that little stunt you pulled, Scar."

"What little stunt might you be referring to, insolent cub?" Scar asked, growling.

"You guilt-tripped me after Binamu's death, I ran off into a grassy area where Nala and I, according to you, kissed, and when you told Simba, he and I fought, which you used as the excuse to be in charge."

"You see? He admits it!" Scar cried. "You let those cubs die, you kissed Nala with full knowledge of her belonging to another, and you fought Simba."

"That would be true," Haiba said, "except for one thing."

"What?" Scar asked, frowning.

Haiba and Nala stood next to each other, and smiled broadly.

"I only went back there to comfort him," Nala said.

"Yep," Haiba said, agreeing. "I'd love to kiss her if she wasn't married, but I don't think she'd say the same."

"Not by a long shot."

"So there you go," Haiba said, smiling triumphantly. "We never kissed."

A/N: Well, would you look at that...Not only are all of the tourists in the same spot for the first time in quite a while, but Haiba and Nala have revealed the truth to all! I don't suspect Shocker, Hila, or Moto will care, but it'll be interesting to see how Sarafina reacts....

AN: Hello once again! Last week, the two groups reunited at

last, and Haiba and Nala successfully exposed Scar for the liar that he is. What happens now? Read and find out...

The Island

Chapter Twenty-Five: The Truth Comes Out

Scar's eyes widened in anger. Nala and Haiba had just exposed the truth, revealing that his action of splitting the group up "for the purpose of everyone's safety" had been nothing more than a way for him to gain authority.

"So...you lied?" Sarafina asked, staring at her boyfriend.

"Now, now, I-let me explain," Scar said, smiling nervously as he began to back away.

Simba, Nala, Haiba, and Captain Interceptor watched with smiling faces as the couple began to argue, while Wazimu, Tama, and Tojo watched with blank expressions. Shocker and Hila paid no attention, and Moto simply stared at Sarafina.

"Don't make excuses with me!" Sarafina said.

"Sarafina, I only did this for your benefit. I was worried that Haiba's leadership skills would get you killed."

"Oh, like you've done such a great job. Did you not see Aibu get munched on earlier? Or Tara get eaten by that thing in the swamp?"

"As compared to Tuhuma getting dragged under the ocean, Maarifa being sacrificed to the god of this temple, or Binamu being gored to death under Haiba's command?"

"Yeah."

"You really baffle me sometimes."

"I could say the same right now!"

"Oh, you could, eh?" Scar growled, and slowly turned until he laid eyes on Haiba. The red lion began to slink away from

Sarafina and prowl towards the cub.

"Uh, Scar? What do you think you're doing?" Sarafina asked as she watched him.

"Scar, listen," Haiba said. "We can work this out. Trust me, we can."

"Oh, you're quite right about that," Scar replied, donning his signature sinister grin.

With that, the evil lion lunged at Haiba, but the cub sprinted out of the way. Scar began to chase his prey, jumping over bricks and boulders in pursuit of the fleeing cub.

Before he knew what had happened, Sarafina tackled Scar and pushed him to the ground, pressing her paws onto him as he fell onto his side.

"You will not murder him," she said, snarling at Scar.

"Shocker! Come here at once!" Scar cried.

"Nope."

"What? You insolent little brat..."

"Why should I help you? Our deal was that if I helped you in this little scheme, you would help me to dispose of Simba so that I could take back what's rightfully mine." The blond cub glared at Nala as he said this.

"You're forgetting something, Shocker," Hila said. "Scar offered to help both of us. It was never up to anybody else but you and I as to who gets Nala in the end."

Before anything else could be said, a yowling roar shattered the silence, and everyone turned to see who it was.

It was Simba.

"Neither of you slimy creeps will ever get your paws on Nala again! I married her! She loves me, and me only!"

"You tell them, Simba."

"So you think you can challenge us?" Shocker asked. "I'd like to see you try."

Captain Interceptor stared at the scene. *What does that kid think he's doing?*

"All right. We'll fight. But not all at once. I'll take on one of you first. Whoever wins will fight the other one."

"I'll challenge you," Hila said, smiling. He walked towards Simba in a self-assured manner, as if he fancied himself a king.

"Come on, then," Simba said. "Fight me."

"My pleasure."

Hila jumped at Simba, and the two cubs clawed and scratched furiously. Hila bit into Simba's shoulder, and Simba returned in kind by sinking his claws into Hila's shoulder. Hila let go of Simba and backed up, only to charge again. Simba dodged out of the way, and Hila crashed into a large stone brick on the ground.

After rubbing his head, a snarling Hila ran towards Simba again, but the golden cub was ready. As soon as Hila struck, Simba sliced Hila's chest with his claws, prompting the cub to clasp his chest, growling from the pain as he ignored the sound of Shocker laughing at his plight.

"Come and catch me!" Simba said in a singsong voice as he ran up the side of a massive stone wall shaped like a trapezoid after centuries of weathering and decay.

The angry cub followed him, and soon both of them were at the top of the ancient temple wall. Simba looked to his left, where everyone else was watching intently, and then to his right, where he beheld a deep black chasm surrounded by the dense jungle.

Hila leapt at Simba with all his might, and the two cubs bit and

clawed even more intensely than before, each slicing and biting as much as possible. Hila then pinned Simba to the ground, and smiled viciously.

"It's over, Simba," he said. "Nala is mine!"

With that, Simba pushed his back legs and kicked Hila off of him, causing the cub to stumble back. Hila swayed left and right, desperately attempting to keep his balance, and he launched himself into the air, intent on finishing Simba once and for all. Simba prepared himself, and as soon as Hila came close, Simba grabbed Hila and the two rolled dangerously close to the edge of the wall.

Hila unsheathed his claws and prepared to slit Simba's throat, but Simba reared up, grabbed Hila by the shoulders, and shoved him off the edge.

"Aaaaaaaaahhhhhhhh!" Hila screamed as he tumbled to his doom, becoming nothing more than a golden-brown dot. His cries slowly faded away as he disappeared into the black pit and vanished from sight.

He would never be seen again.

Simba bounded down the wall again, exhausted and in need of rest. He would wait until later to fight Shocker. Plus there was still the matter of Scar.

But although those problems still had to be sorted out, this was a good start.

AN: Wow! Bet you didn't expect today's chapter to be this intense... Scar has lost all of his power, and Hila is dead! I bet you're all glad to see him gone. But there's still plenty of problems for our heroes...

AN: Hello once again! Last week, Scar's true nature was exposed, and Simba battled Hila before sending him to his doom. What happens now? Let's take a look...

The Island

Chapter Twenty-Six: A New Leaf

"You've got a lot of talking to do, bud," Sarafina said, growling at Scar as she kept him pinned to the ground.

"All right, all right," Scar said. "I only tried to kill Haiba because he threatened us. I don't want to lose you, Sarafina. You're the only reason I haven't gone completely insane."

"Ya sure about that?"

"Yes, I am."

"Ya don't just want my money?"

"If that were the only reason, I might have stayed with that ugly lioness, the publisher of that home and garden magazine..."

"Zira?"

"Yes, her. She's ugly, unpleasant, arrogant, and abusive to her employees. Her only redeeming factor is her money. But I couldn't handle her after a while. You, on the other hand, are beautiful, talented, and...*kind*." He spat out the last word, almost as if in disgust. It was clearly not a word he used often.

"You sure you didn't just leave after she got arrested?"

"That was the last straw, but I'd been thinking about it for quite some time before then."

"Liar. You probably helped her in that little scheme, and left before you could be found out."

"Oh, you are perceptive, aren't you?"

Sarafina's eyes widened, and she paused before speaking again.

"You're a liar...I can't believe I was stupid enough to trust you."

"I did save you from being sacrificed to Kamu'a, didn't I?"

"Well," Shocker said with a smug smile, "that was *after* you took up my suggestion to befriend the native pride and help them kidnap all the girls, including her."

Scar snarled. "Why, you little..."

Before he could say anything more, Sarafina slapped the red lion with her paw as hard as she could. She then leaned into his ear, speaking loud enough that everyone could hear her.

"We're done."

With that, she let go of Scar and walked towards the group. Nala smiled sweetly at her, and as the lioness sat down, the cub patted her on the back.

"Let's face it," Nala said. "It had to happen sooner or later."

Scar struggled to stand up, and when he finally got himself on his paws, he merely snarled.

"Stay with them, then," he said. "You fools will all die anyhow. Thankfully, I have friends I can rely on." The lion then donned his sinister grin. "Kamu'a just might need another member of his cult, after all. I think he and I will get along very well."

With that, the angry lion turned and ran off, and the group watched him until he was out of sight.

"So you caused all this?" Simba asked Shocker. "You're responsible for everything, aren't you?"

"I don't know about that, but I do know one thing. You ought to thank me for saving you, idiot."

"I don't thank slimy creeps like you."

"Oh, well. I was going to offer a postponement on our fight until we leave this jungle, but..."

"No, no. I'll take you up on that."

"Good."

"So," Captain Interceptor asked, "what do we do now?"

"Well," Haiba said, "we'll find our way out, but I've got something to do first."

The brown cub walked over to Sarafina, and the starlet looked at him.

"What is it?" she asked.

"Well," Haiba said, "Sarafina, you seductive lioness who fell from heaven, you have wooed me ever since you came here. And you should know by now that I care for you more than that slimeball Scar."

Sarafina considered this, and responded, "I like ya, kid, but just because you can talk like a cheese puff don't mean you got what it takes."

"You never know until you try. So what do you say, my sweet Sarafina?"

The lioness smiled, leaned down, and gave Haiba a lick. The cub smiled and sighed.

No more needed to be said than that.

AN: Well, would you look at that? Sarafina finally realized who her real love is. I bet you've all been waiting for this since the story began, a long time ago...

By the way, if you can guess which real-life person inspired Zira as described in this chapter, Haiba will give you a kiss.

AN: Hello once again! Last week, Sarafina broke up with Scar and began a new relationship with Haiba. I know you all loved seeing that, so without further ado, here's more of your new favorite couple!

The Island

Chapter Twenty-Seven: Carried Away

"Isn't it sweet, Simba?" Nala asked.

"Yeah," the cub answered. "It is."

Just then, Zazu and Pori suddenly flew in and landed. After getting separated from the others back at the beach, they had to fly all over the island to search for them.

"Has anything happened since we last saw you all?" Zazu asked.

"Definitely," Simba said. "Hila's dead, Scar ran off, we're all a single group again, and Haiba and Sarafina are together now. That's the short version for you."

"Well," said Zazu, "that's certainly quite a turn of events. All in all, a change for the better, I must say."

"Couldn't agree more," Haiba said as he massaged Sarafina. The lioness began purring, something Haiba had never heard from her before...

"What are you doing here, Scar?" Hago asked. "Shouldn't you be gallivanting through our jungle with your little subjects?"

"Actually, I was betrayed by my helpers, who exposed my lies to the rest of them out of spite. I've come here because I feel I could be of use to you and your great god."

"How so?"

"Well, I know the strengths and weaknesses of almost all of the surviving members."

"Perfect."

"Yes, Hago. Allow me to join your cult. I believe we have...very similar philosophies."

"Indeed...I can sense it in you, Scar. From now on, you are our ally."

"This is all very lovely," Captain Interceptor said, "but you have a job, Haiba. You were going to lead us out of here, remember?"

"Of course," Haiba replied. "In fact, I think I know the way."

"You do?"

"Yes, Captain. I do."

Sarafina then licked Haiba again. "You heard him. Lead us out, cheese puff."

Haiba smiled at his new nickname, but before anything more could be said, a familiar squawking screech combined with the flapping of enormous leathery wings echoed through the temple as a giant Pteranodon, as golden as the ones that had attacked the group before the split, flew straight for Sarafina.

"Don't just sit there! Help me, man!"

The flying reptile trapped Sarafina in its talons and flapped its wings before slowly lifting off, shrieking and squawking the whole time.

Haiba ran as fast as he could to catch up with the flying beast, but it flapped harder and harder.

"Why isn't the pterodactyl going higher?" Nala asked Wazimu.

"She's too heavy. As big as they are, they probably aren't used to lifting live prey that size. The laws of aerodynamics prevent it from being able to go any higher than it already is."

Haiba continued to chase after his new love and her kidnapper, not showing signs of exhaustion even as he ran at top speed after them.

"I'll rescue you!" he cried as he kept pace with the Pteranodon and his captive.

Eventually, the winged reptile grew tired of carrying its prey, and slowly flew to the ground, not letting go of Sarafina as it

did so. Instead, it slowly reoriented its talons to keep her trapped on the ground, causing her great pain.

"Haiba, help me!"

"I'm coming, Sara!"

Haiba sped into view, not stopping until he was mere inches away from the golden giant. It spread its great wings and squawked again, allowing Haiba to leap up at it and grab onto its upper torso. Haiba sunk his claws deep into the shoulders of the great beast, and it moved one of its wings closer so that it could get its clawed fingers onto the cub. Haiba was prepared for this, and turned to bite down on the scaly fingers. The pterosaur shrieked in pain, letting go of Sarafina as it threw Haiba to the ground.

Sarafina ran to help the cub, but he simply bit down on the Pteranodon's leg, prompting it to shoot straight into the sky. Haiba let go just in time and dropped to the ground, a tad bruised, but otherwise unharmed.

"You okay, Haiba?" Sarafina asked.

"With you around, I'm more than okay, baby."

After returning to the group with Sarafina, Haiba fulfilled his promise and began to lead the others to the spot where they would escape the temple.

"So why are we staring at this big hole?" Simba asked as they all stared at a deep pit with an aged staircase.

"Because," Haiba answered, "that big hole is our ticket out."

AN: Well, what did you all think of that chapter? The hornbills are back, Scar joined the Mungu Pride, we had another exciting creature sequence, and now our heroes have a chance to escape! But beware...Don't forget that this is the Temple of Kamu'a, and what we've seen is only the surface...

AN: Hello once again! Last week, Scar joined forces with the Mungu Pride, Zazu and Pori caught up with the group, and Haiba has discovered a system of caves beneath the temple through which to escape! What horrors will they encounter down there? Read and find out...

The Island

Chapter Twenty-Eight: Into the Cavern

"How is going down that black pit going to get us out of here?" Captain Interceptor asked.

"Relax, Interceptor," Haiba said. "This hole leads to a tunnel system, I think. My theory is that it winds underneath the whole island, and maybe even under the ocean. If we follow this system, we can find our way back to the motel without risking yet more dinosaur attacks."

"What will we do then?" Simba asked.

"It's simple," Haiba answered. "We go through the tunnels, avoid any obstacles – and knowing this place, you can bet there'll be some – get back to the surface at the closest possible place, head back to the motel, and then you all pack and leave."

"Sounds like a plan," Nala said.

"Ready, everyone?" Haiba asked.

"Yep!" everyone answered.

"Follow me, then." And with that, Haiba took the first step down the stairway into the pit.

Not far away, Scar watched them while hiding in the jungle greenery, and turned to face Hago.

"They've just walked down a hole in the temple's floor. What's down there?"

"Why, our home, of course," Hago answered. "The tunnel system is our great god's lair, and so we have established a home for ourselves, alongside that in the village."

"Ah, I look forward to seeing it."

The underground caverns were a magnificent sight to behold. Once they had gone down the hole, they discovered that the cavern system was actually very well lit, considering the walls were a vibrant orange-red color. There was also a light orange mist hanging around the floors, along with the occasional portion of a skeleton carelessly left on the ground.

"Careful not to step on those," Haiba said, chuckling at his joke.

"We get it, Haiba," Tama said.

"Simba," Nala asked, "what do you think we're gonna find here?"

"I don't know, but we're in a big creepy cave on an island of monsters. Whatever it is, it's gonna be cool!"

As the group walked on, they began to hear noises, as if they were being followed.

"What is that?" Tojo asked.

"Shut up, Tojo," Shocker said, snarling. "It's just the wind or something."

"No, Shocker," Interceptor said. "It sounds like...footsteps. Lion footsteps."

"Great. So now those crazy Mungu lions are after us," Nala said, sighing. "We never get a break, do we?"

"So what's the plan, Hago?" asked one of the Mungu lions.

"Patience, Kiume, patience. We will simply follow their every step. Then, when the time is right, we shall strike!"

"An excellent plan," Scar said, smiling. "I couldn't have come up with a better one myself." *They all know these tunnels much better than I do...Staying with them will benefit me.*

"Indeed not, Scar," Hago replied. "After all, only my mind is connected to that of the great island god, the all-seeing Kamu'a."

The Mungu Pride then chanted in unison, "Hail Kamu'a...Hail Kamu'a...Hail Kamu'a..."

"Now, I don't know when this will happen," Haiba told the group, "but I get a feeling we're going to have to deal with some lava before we get out of here. It's the reason this tunnel is so bright."

"And so hot?" Captain Interceptor asked.

"Nope," Haiba said, donning a cheesy grin. "That's just me."

Sarafina smiled, "Yeah. You better believe it."

"Am I no longer to your liking, Sarafina?" asked a familiar voice, and everyone turned around to see Scar prowling out of the darkness, smiling sinisterly as usual.

"Get out."

"Oh, I don't think my new friends are very keen to do that. This is their home, after all."

Immediately, the Mungu Pride jumped out and surrounded the tourists from all sides, and Hago smiled as he walked toward the captured group members.

"Welcome to the Cave of Kamu'a."

AN: Well, what did you all think of that? The cubs have entered the tunnel, and the bad guys have captured them! I bet they'll see Kamu'a again very soon...

N: Hello once again! Last week, our heroes entered the volcanic

tunnel system underneath the island...which just so happens to be the domain of Kamu'a. Naturally, our heroes got captured by the Mungu Pride and their new ally Scar, as you may recall. What happens next? Read and find out...

The Island

Chapter Twenty-Nine: Captured

Hago, Scar, and the Mungu Pride led the captives down the tunnel, through various passageways, until they reached a smaller cavern area, though it was still spacious enough to fit them all comfortably. There was a line of posts, and the Mungu lions used vines to tie the tourists to them.

"This will be your home for now," Hago proclaimed, "but if things go as planned, that won't be the case for long." He then grinned at them, and Scar joined with his signature sinister smile.

"You've all landed yourselves in a very deadly situation here," Scar said, still smiling broadly. "All of you are in great danger – what a pity."

"Danger? Ha!" Simba said. "I walk on the wild side. I laugh in the face of danger! Ha ha ha ha!"

"Oh, you won't be laughing for long, you little brat," Scar replied.

"And why not?" Simba asked challengingly.

Hago leaned in and said, "Because Kamu'a will devour your very soul!"

"No surprise there. I bet anything he doesn't have one." Simba donned a cheeky smirk as he said this, unfazed by whatever Scar or Hago might do.

"Why would he even need one?" Hago asked. "He is the king of Kadalo. Why would he need a soul when he has something

greater – power?"

Nala smiled, and answered, "Because power leads to bloated egos, like with you two losers."

"Shut up, you obnoxious cub!" Scar cried.

"Obnoxious? You haven't seen obnoxious. La, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la, la..."

Scar groaned. "Oh, for the love of...Won't you shut her up?"

Hago shoved his cobra-headed staff into Nala's face, and began to hypnotize her. "Please, go to sleep...Sleep, little lioness..."

"Ooh, why don't you hypnotize me, too?" Haiba asked Hago. "I'm already enjoying being tied up."

"Haiba, what is wrong with you?" Simba asked.

"Nothing. All I said is that I find this kind of hot."

"You think everything's hot, Haiba," Nala said, breaking out of her hypnosis.

"You may be enjoying yourself now, tour guide," Hago said, "but soon you will bear witness to the wrath of Kamu'a."

"He wants these two as sacrifices, right?" Haiba asked, indicating Nala and Sarafina.

"Yes, he does," Hago answered.

"Well then," Haiba declared, "he's gonna have to take it up with me."

Suddenly, Hago's eyes began to glow like burning embers, and the high priest's voice was replaced by a very different one, a hoarse voice with a monstrous, almost reptilian quality.

"I do not make deals with my victims!" The possessed Hago cried. *"You are all insignificant ants! I am everything on this island! I am the great one! I am Kamu'a!"*

Only now did the captive tourists show any signs of fear, for now they were hearing the voice of the evil creature whose influence hung like a dark cloud over the island.

"Let me ask you something, Kamu'a," Haiba said. "We know the creatures on this island are aggressive anyway, but did you make them kill our group members?"

"I did not directly do so, but my presence always amplifies their viciousness."

"Man, I didn't understand a thing you said," Sarafina said. "Would you mind talking in English, oh great one?"

"Don't speak to me that way, lioness. Soon I will devour you all, and you will see how deadly I can be!"

"Oh, you think so, eh?" Captain Interceptor asked. "No expert tracker and sea captain is gonna buy that one. I've seen carved dragons on old ships that I found more frightening than you."

"What? How dare you insult me! I am the god of evil!"

"And chaos, too?"

"Yeeeeeeesssssss."

"You're crazy, man," Moto said. "Next you'll be saying you're gonna eat me and stuff."

"Oh, but I am...even if you are rather...unappetizing."

"This guy thinks he can get rid of Moto? He's even dumber than me, yo!"

Hago/Kamu'a snarled at this, and lunged at the captives...

AN: Well, what did you all think of that? Interesting to see the cubs give their captors hell, as always. Not only did some of our favorite characters get a chance to shine, but we also got to hear Kamu'a speak through Hago, giving more insight into just who he is. Interesting, eh?

AN: Hello once more! Last week, our heroes were captured and tied up by Scar and the Mungu Pride. In addition to this, Kamu'a possessed Hago and revealed that his awakening was the cause of the aggression in the other island monsters. Finally, the volley of insults hurled by our cast prompted him to attack. Will he defeat them? Read and find out...

The Island

Chapter Thirty: The Great Escape

The possessed Hago lunged at the tied-up tourists, all too ready to teach them all a lesson. He would do whatever it took to ensure they treated their captors with the respect they deserved.

Simba wriggled from side to side, desperate to escape from the ropes that confined him. As the enraged Hago came closer and closer, Simba finally managed to free his left paw and unsheathe his claws. Hago finally came face to face with the tourists, only to be met by Simba slashing him in the cheek. Hago's glowing eyes burned even brighter, and his growl of pain sounded like a mix of lion, crocodile, and thunderclap.

"Ah! No one dares to injure Kamu'a and lives!"

As the possessed lion continued to roar and growl, Simba used his claws to tear away the ropes, freeing himself and the others. Simba, Nala, Haiba, Sarafina, Captain Interceptor, Tama, Tojo, Shocker, Moto, Wazimu, and the hornbills fled the caverns and ran back into the main tunnel system as quickly as they could.

"After them! No one can escape the sacrifice!"

After this, Hago's eyes stopped glowing, restoring him to normal, and he led Scar and the Mungu Pride in pursuit of the escaped tourists.

"So, where are we?" Simba asked.

"How am I supposed to know?" Haiba asked in return. "I've never been down here before."

"You're the tour guide, yo," Sarafina said. "Shouldn't you have the answers?"

"I'm sorry, my lovely lioness, but I don't. If I did, would we be having this conversation?"

"No."

"Exactly."

They continued to walk through the tunnel, since they knew their pursuers were a fair distance behind them.

"So what happens if they catch us again?" Nala asked.

"I don't know," Haiba answered. "This might be our only chance."

"Then why are we walking? Shouldn't we be *running* instead?"

"With all of us, running might be too noisy. We know they aren't close, but there's no telling when that might change."

"If you say so."

They continued to walk through the red tunnels, the heat increasing with each step, confusion and nervousness setting in.

"How will we know when we've found the exit?" Tojo asked.

"We'll know," Haiba said. "Don't worry."

"And just how will we know?" Tama asked.

"Trust me, Tama. You've got to trust me."

"I think she finds that a tad difficult," Captain Interceptor said.

"No kidding," Shocker muttered under his breath.

"Where do you think they went, Scar?" Hago asked. "I know

these tunnels, but only you know our victims."

"Well," Scar answered, "they're obviously trying to find an exit. But I doubt we have to worry. From what you've told me, it sounds like there's a fair amount of hazards in their way."

"Oh, there is, Scar. There definitely is. Heh heh heh heh heh heh..."

As the group continued through the tunnel, they soon became aware of a strange hissing sound.

"What is that?" Tojo asked.

"It's probably a geyser or something," Simba answered. "We can just walk around it, I bet."

"Um, Simba?" Nala said. "You might want to think again."

Simba looked up, and realized that Nala was right.

In front of them was a massive tangle of green vines, all covered in thorns, and swaying like a nest of snakes. This morass of plant material filled up the entire space of the tunnel entrance before them, and in the center of it all was a massive head like a pitcher plant, vibrant red with a glowing gold inside.

Only Simba could comment on the terrifying sight before them.

"We're in trouble. Big trouble."

AN: Well, what did you all think of that? Our heroes escaped Kamu'a and his minions, only to come across a giant carnivorous plant! Can they escape? We shall see...

AN: Hello once more! Last week, our heroes managed to escape from the Mungu Pride, but they came upon another danger: a giant carnivorous plant blocking the entrance to the passageway. Will they make it past the plant? Read and find out...

The Island

Chapter Thirty-One: The Carnivorous Plant

The green vines of the carnivorous plant slithered and swayed menacingly, and the massive red mouth opened before hissing again.

"Well, any bright ideas?" Simba asked.

"I've got nothing," Tama said.

"Me neither." Tojo added.

"What about you, Haiba?" Nala asked. "You got anything?"

"Just a relentless love for this beautiful lioness," Haiba said, putting a paw around Sarafina's front leg.

Nala groaned before she felt a pair of paws on her midsection, and she didn't even have to look to know who it was.

"I've got a little lioness of my own, yo!"

Nala turned around to behold Moto grabbing onto her, and angrily shoved off the filthy cub.

"Take your stinking paws off me, you darn dirty cub!"

Moto flopped onto his back, then rolled over before climbing to his paws again. Simba walked over to him and snarled.

"Don't touch my wife again, you little slimeball."

"Um, guys?" Haiba asked. "Don't you think we have something more important going on?"

Simba glanced back at the sinister giant plant. "Oh, right."

The hungry menace writhed and wriggling its vines, challenging them all to try and get past it.

"Captain, do you know anything about this?" Haiba asked Interceptor.

"Well," the captain responded, "I've heard tell of plants like these in every jungle on Earth, but never anything on how to defeat them. Seems those who tell the tales were lucky to escape."

Simba turned towards the plant, stared at it, and declared, "Well, it's now or never."

With that, he charged at the plant, but one of its many vines shot out and curled around him, and he dug his claws into the rocky cave floor in a desperate attempt to not be pulled in, but it was no use.

"Simba!" Nala cried as she rushed toward him, but she too was grabbed by a vine, and Haiba, Tama, Tojo, Shocker, and Moto followed them in quick succession.

"What now, genius?" Nala asked Simba.

"Just give me a second," Simba said, grumbling.

"Hurry up, then," Haiba said. "This plant isn't gonna wait."

"Tama, I don't think we're gonna make it," Tojo said.

"Tojo, shut up."

Shocker desperately clawed at the plant, struggling to escape. "No mere plant can overcome the might of Shocker. You'll see!"

Moto's attempt to claw his way out had no effect either, leading him to remark, "This plant, yo...It just doesn't give up."

"No kidding," Haiba agreed, still struggling with the vine that held him captive.

Simba dug his claws into the vine that held him, deeper and deeper until he had a full grip on it, and he leaned down to bite it. He bit through the vine completely, causing it to drop, freeing him.

The cub bounded over towards Nala, clawing her free, and they split the next part of the task. Nala ran towards Tojo, and Simba

ran towards Tama. In an instant, they were free as well. After that, Simba freed Haiba of his prison, and the five cubs bounded over to the other side of the passage, relieved that they had made it across.

"Hey, what about Shocker and Moto?" asked Haiba.

"Do we really have to save them?" Simba asked.

"Of course we do," Nala answered.

Simba ran back towards the plant, and wondered just how he would free the two remaining cubs.

Both Shocker and Moto were still very much trapped by the plant, and it held them in an even tighter grip now that the rest of its prey had escaped. Of the two, Shocker fared slightly better thanks to the small electrical volts he kept sending through the vine as well as his raw strength.

Moto, on the other hand, was out of luck. The slimy cub made a desperate attempt to free himself, but the vine squeezed him even more tightly.

"Get off me, yo!" he cried. The plant circled around him, and the vine wrapped itself around the cub's neck, and soon, the cub vanished in the massive tangle of vines as a loud snap echoed through the cavern.

And that was the end of Moto.

As the plant lowered the deceased Moto into its mouth, Shocker's began to flicker and spark, before releasing an enormous amount of raw electricity from his body, allowing him to spring to the ground as the plant sizzled and slumped to the ground.

Captain Interceptor, Sarafina, and Wazimu stepped over the charred corpse of the plant, and Wazimu stopped to grab a small portion of one of the vines as Zazu and Pori flew over them.

"Well," said Haiba, "now that we're past that, it's time to find the exit."

AN: Well, that was quite a chapter, wasn't it? I actually felt sorry to see Moto go. I enjoyed writing him a lot. Maybe I'll give him a larger role in something else...

Nonetheless, I felt this was a good send-out for the character. I couldn't resist the *Planet of the Apes* nod, and I wonder just how many of you can spot the obviously appropriate *Breaking Bad* reference...

AN: Hello once more! Last week, our heroes had to find a way to get past a giant carnivorous plant blocking their path. With the exception of everyone's favorite druggie slob Moto, everyone managed to get past it, and to top it off, Shocker used his powers and rendered the plant a charred corpse. Now our heroes continue through the tunnels, but will they evade the Mungu Pride? Read and find out...

The Island

Chapter Thirty-Two: Through the Tunnels

"Do you think we'll ever get out of here?" Tojo asked. "Because I'm starting to think we won't."

"Shut up, Tojo," Tama said. "Of course we'll get out."

"How do you know?"

"The fact that we're all still alive."

"Um, didn't you see what happened to Moto back there? Down here, we could all die at any minute!"

"Moto was dumb, okay? We're not. Unlike him, our brains haven't melted into mush."

"Good point, Tama."

Haiba turned his head and said, "There's no need to worry, you

two. We haven't seen the Mungu Pride since we escaped, and that plant is the only hazard we've encountered at this point."

"Well, you're not the reason we all escaped that plant," Shocker said. "Ahem. Remember who took care of that thing?"

"All right," Simba said. "You saved us, Shocker. Thanks. We appreciate it."

"Good enough," the blond cub said as they continued down the passage.

"So how will we know when we've reached them, Oh Great One?" one of the Mungu lions asked Hago.

"Oh, don't worry about that," Hago said, smiling. "We'll find them without trouble. They are incredibly easy to catch."

"You say that as we wander through the tunnels without the slightest sign of them," Scar said.

"Are you questioning our ability to find our sacrifices?"

"Of course not. I was merely pointing out that it's not as easy a task as you say."

"What makes you say that, Scar?"

"Well, as I've said, I've spent quite a lot of time in the company of this group. Overall, I'd say I know them well."

"We have a history with the guide and the captain, though," Hago explained. "We've sacrificed many tourists that they have led into our jungle."

"Then you should know those two well enough by now," Scar said. "Which way are they likely to be heading?"

"If our carnivorous plant hasn't dealt with them already, they'll walk straight into the jaws of Kamu'a."

"So, how long are we gonna be in this tunnel, yo?" Sarafina

asked Haiba. "It's getting really boring down here...and hot."

"Pity I can't cool myself down," Haiba said, smirking. "You make me hotter than ever!"

"Will he ever stop?" Nala asked Simba, whispering.

"Don't you think he would've already, Nala?"

"Okay, that's a good point."

"So *this* was your deadly, unstoppable plant?" Scar asked as he and the Mungu Pride beheld the burnt husk of the plant.

"Those fools will pay for this insolence!" Hago cried. "How could it have ended up like this?"

"There's only one answer to that," Scar answered. "One of my former accomplices – a cub by the name of Shocker – is the only one who could have done it. He was one of the ones we had tied to the post, a blond cub with a large tuft. Remember him now?"

"Vaguely," Hago said. "He isn't one of the ones who hurled insults at me, was he?"

"Not that I recall. He knew better than that, I think."

"But how did a cub destroy the deadliest plant on the island?"

"What part of the name 'Shocker' don't you understand?"

"Oh, I understand it perfectly, Scar. I think, however, it is them who will be getting a shock. Heh heh heh heh heh..."

"What do you mean by that?"

"I mean that those tourists will soon find that no matter where they go, they will not escape these tunnels alive. Heh heh heh heh heh heh....Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!"

AN: Well, this was a little less intense than the last chapter, but

interesting nonetheless. Our heroes continue to wander through the underground tunnels, and the bad guys are on their trail. I think it won't be too long before our heroes find themselves in very hot water indeed...

AN: Hello once more! Last week, our heroes continued through the tunnels, and their pursuers discovered the remains of the carnivorous plant. But while they made it past that danger, there are still more for them to face. Will they escape their next challenge? Read and find out...

The Island

Chapter Thirty-Three: The Lava Cliffs

"Haiba? Where are we going?" Simba asked. "We've been walking through here for at least an hour now."

"Trust me, Simba," Haiba answered, "we'll find our way."

"What time is it, anyway?" Tama asked. "The sun was still shining when we went down, but it feels like hours since then."

"It's probably nighttime by now," Captain Interceptor said. "Pretty easy to lose track down here, though."

"Exactly," Haiba said. "We'll know whenever we get out of this place."

"For a tour guide, your knowledge of this place is decidedly lacking," said Shocker, unable to resist a snicker.

Simba turned and glared at the cub. "Shocker, shut up."

Shocker's paws began to crackle, as if he was about to shoot electricity at Simba, but Sarafina tackled him.

"Hey, cut it out, yo. If you do that again, I'll throw you into the next body of water I see."

"Short-circuiting him *and* giving him a much-needed bath?" Interceptor asked, chuckling derisively. "Sounds good to me!"

As Sarafina walked past Interceptor, carrying Shocker in her mouth as she did so, the cub glared at the captain.

"Don't go there again," the cub said to him, snarling.

Sarafina finally dropped Shocker to the ground, and Wazimu eagerly approached the cub.

"So, Shocker, I've been meaning to ask you ever so many questions. How does your body generate that electricity? How can you withstand all that electrical energy? Do you have any other unusual abilities? Why, you combined with my findings on this island could do wonders for my career..."

"Oh, brother." Shocker said, moaning as the professor bombarded him with questions.

Roughly twenty minutes later, the survivors still walked through the tunnels, but there were some notable differences from what they had seen before...

"Why is it so much hotter in here now?" Simba asked. "And why is it glowing red even more than before?"

Nala tapped him on the shoulder. "You might want to look over there."

Simba looked, and beheld a most unusual sight. The tunnel now led to a sheer rocky cliff alongside a massive, glowing, bubbling lake of lava.

"So, Haiba, how do we get across this?" asked Interceptor.

"See that narrow little path on the cliff?" Haiba asked in return. "It's big enough for us to fit on, but we'll all have to walk single file."

When they reached the start of the cliff trail, Haiba decided upon the arrangement of the line. "Interceptor, get behind me. Sarafina, my sweet, you go behind him. Nala, get behind her. Then we'll have two hot lionesses in a row!"

"Don't even go there," Nala said, glaring at Haiba as she assumed her place.

Haiba ignored her and continued, "Simba, you get behind her. Tojo, you're behind Simba. Tama, you're after him. Wazimu, you go behind Tama. Zazu, Pori, you two can just fly. As for you, Shocker...you're at the very back."

"What? Why?"

"One, you're unpleasant in every way possible, and two, you can defend us if the Mungu Pride catches up."

Shocker grumbled as he walked to the very back, and the group began walking across the cliff trail.

As the group made its way across the edge, it became clear just how steep the cliff truly was.

"Now, now, don't worry," Haiba said. "We'll make it across this thing. We'll be perfectly fine. You'll see."

"Ya sure about that?" Sarafina asked.

"Yes, my lovely little star. Everything's going to be just fine."

No sooner than he said this, a slight cracking sound echoed through the cavern, and everyone heard a squeaky cry as they turned to face the source of the sound.

"Help me!" Tojo cried as he slipped from the cliff edge. "I'm falling!"

AN: Well, this was an interesting chapter, wasn't it? First we got some fun interaction between the various characters, and then everyone's favorite squeaky cub finds himself in mortal danger... Talk about a change of mood...

AN: Hello once more! Last week, our heroes continued wandering through the tunnels until they found a massive cliff face next to an enormous lava lake. They went single file in order to walk the narrow path, but Tojo slipped and fell. Will

someone be able to rescue him, or is it the end for Tiny Tojo?
Read and find out...

The Island

Chapter Thirty-Four: Rescuing Tojo

"Help me!" Tojo cried as he fell. "I'm gonna fall into the lava!"

"Not if I have anything to say about it," said Simba as he sprang into action. The cub placed himself at the very edge of the cliff and extended his paw to the falling cub, grabbing him just as he was about to fall out of grasping range.

"Tojo, keep holding onto my paw," Simba said. "I'll pull you up."

Nala could see that Tojo's weight was beginning to pull Simba down, and she immediately grabbed her husband from behind. Finally, Sarafina latched onto her, and the strength of two cubs combined with a fully-grown lioness guaranteed that, at the very least, Tojo had a fighting chance.

"Hang on, Tojo!" Nala cried. "We'll save you!"

Sarafina pulled Nala towards her as hard as she could, and Nala did the same to Simba. Gradually, they pulled Simba away from the edge of the cliff, and Tojo up to the edge. Finally, Tojo was safe, and Simba let go.

Tojo walked over to Tama and nuzzled her. She then walked over towards Simba.

"I never thought I'd say this, but...thank you. You saved him. How can I ever repay you?"

"It's all in a day's work," Simba said, smiling. "That's why I'm here."

"So they have reached the lava cliffs now, have they?" Hago asked himself as he walked with Scar and the Mungu Pride, seemingly lost in his thoughts.

"How did you come to that conclusion?" Scar asked.

"Kamu'a has told me so," Hago answered. "He senses that they are approaching his domain."

"Ah, I see now."

The evil lions continued to make their way through the tunnels, and they would not cease until they caught up with their quarry.

"When shall we find the survivors, Hago?" Scar asked.

"Oh, we'll find them," Hago answered, grinning widely. "The fact that they are at the lava cliffs means that they will soon be where Kamu'a can catch them, and we won't have to worry about them anymore."

"Of course, we ought to arrange a deal," Scar said. "Is there any way you might be able to hypnotize Sarafina into forever being my loving mate?"

"That won't be a problem," Hago said. "Tell me, though. Since you know these individuals, how many of them are likely to survive long enough to reach our great god?"

"Well, I can think of at least two who probably won't," Scar answered. "Tojo, the one with the squeaking voice, is too much of a weakling to survive. And Moto, the grubby one you thought was a living carcass on first impression, doesn't have enough wits about him to survive a collision with a wall. I'd hazard that one of them was claimed by your plant, if not both of them, and if one has survived, he'll likely tumble into the lava in no time."

"Excellent," Hago said, smiling at the thought of a pathetic cub tumbling into the lava pit. "And what of the others?"

"They fare better, but in the face of your god, escape is unlikely."

Hago chuckled at this, and continued walking alongside Scar.

"I like you, Scar. You have an admirable appreciation for the art

of cruelty."

"It is an art, it is indeed an art."

"I think I can allow myself to spare your lioness," Hago said.
"She'd make a good little hypnotized slave."

"Yes, she would," Scar said, agreeing. "She most certainly would."

Of course, I don't plan on staying here. I still have Sarafina's money to gain, and I won't get that here. Perhaps I can arrange some sort of deal...

Hago was unaware of Scar's thoughts, seeing as he was wrapped in his own.

He's fallen for my trick perfectly. Kamu'a wants Sarafina as a sacrifice, and he will get what he wants, no matter what the cost.

Another voice suddenly popped into Hago's head, one he was very familiar with.

Good, Hago. Very good. Your unwavering loyalty to me is the greatest thing about you. You know your place, and I trust you to remind every living being on this island what their places are...Below me. Below the greatest being ever to walk the earth. Below the mighty, all-powerful Kamu'a.

AN: My, my, my...You guys got something quite interesting, didn't you? I bet you were all happy to see Tojo rescued from certain death, given how lovable the little squeaker is. And we got a little deeper into the psychology of our villains...Tension is rising, everyone.

AN: Hello once more! Sorry this is a few minutes late. I had an extremely annoying technical issue related to formatting this. Last week, Simba rescued Tojo from falling off the lava cliffs, and we got a little more insight into Scar and Hago's true plans. There seems to be new twists at every turn...What will it be this

time? Read and find out...

The Island

Chapter Thirty-Five: The Graveyard

"So how much longer are we gonna be stuck on these lava cliffs?" Nala asked. "We've been here for a couple of hours now."

"I don't know, Nala," Haiba answered. "I've never been down here before, remember?"

"So you've been telling us," Tojo said.

"Don't worry about it, guys," Sarafina said. "He'll lead us out. Cliffs don't just go on forever, yo."

"That's true," Simba said. "Besides, we're walking underneath an island we've been wandering around for a pretty long time now."

"Do you know how long we've been on Kadalo, Simba?" Nala asked.

"I don't even know," Zazu told them from above. "I wish I knew."

"Me too, Zebu," said Pori.

"Pori, we've been over this..."

The group continued walking – or in the case of the hornbills, flying – until Haiba noticed something.

"Hey, guys! I think it's gonna go downhill soon. We'll be off these lava cliffs in no time."

Almost an hour later, the tourists had finally descended from the lava cliffs.

"Man, I never thought we'd get out of there," Simba said.

"Patience is a virtue, young Simba," Zazu said as he patted the cub's head with a wing.

"So what do we do now?" Tama asked.

"Well," Captain Interceptor answered, "we'll continue to follow the path. It seems to be the only way through."

"That probably saves us time," Haiba said. "If there were two tunnels, and we went the wrong way, we wouldn't have a chance."

"Thank you for stating the obvious," Shocker said from behind.

"Hey, shut up back there!" Interceptor cried. "We don't have time for your smart remarks, Shock-O."

Shocker growled, but did not raise a paw.

"Okay, guys," Haiba said. "Follow me."

With that, the group continued down the tunnel.

"What is this place?" Nala asked as she beheld the latest oddity the tunnels had to offer.

Before them was a massive cavern, glowing red as always, with the entire floor covered in a thick silver mist. A gigantic ribcage, clearly belonging to some long-dead primordial beast, stuck out from the smoke, and they could see that it served as a bridge over a small pool. Other skeletons were scattered around the cavern, and while some were recognizable forms such as Triceratops or the ever-present Allosaurus, others were quite unfamiliar. Clearly, this island had been home to even stranger beasts...

"This is awesome!" Simba cried. He grabbed his camera and snapped a photo of the prehistoric graveyard.

"Okay, Nala. Now take a picture of me in front of it."

He took the camera off of his neck and handed it to Nala, who

obliged in taking the picture.

"I hope you're happy with one picture," Captain Interceptor said. "We need to get out of this place. I feel hotter than a cooked sausage."

"All right, then," said Haiba. "Come on, everyone. Time to cross the...ribcage."

"Is there even a spine attached to that?" Tojo asked.

"Well, there's only one way to know," Simba said. "C'mon, let's go."

With that, the tourists stepped into the prehistoric graveyard, hoping that it would be the key to their escape.

AN: Well, you guys got a nice little chapter today, didn't you? You got some fun interaction between the characters, and now we've gone from the lava tunnels to a dinosaur graveyard. This place gets spookier every time, doesn't it?

AN: Hello once more! Last week, our heroes left the lava cliffs and entered a graveyard of prehistoric beasts. They have decided to cross it, but what will they find? Read and find out....

The Island

Chapter Thirty-Six: The Lair of Kamu'a

"Well, at least there's a spine..." Tojo said as the group walked across the great backbone of some long-dead prehistoric beast.

"It'd be pretty bad if there wasn't," Haiba said. "We probably couldn't go through this graveyard otherwise."

"If I had to hazard a guess," Wazimu said, "I would theorize that this was once a Brachiosaurus."

"Like the ones Kamu'a eats all the time?" Simba said. "I think so."

"That was scary..." Nala said, thinking back to when they had witnessed Kamu'a attack and kill an enormous long-necked dinosaur with little to no effort...

They all crossed the giant spine until Shocker, still at the very back of the row, stepped off of it.

"I love this place," Shocker said. "It's so...bleak."

"Only you would want to be in a graveyard," Nala said.

"Remember how you always went to funerals nobody invited you to? Remember how you dragged me to that stupid morgue for no reason? No wonder we broke up..."

"But, Nala—"

"We don't have time for this nonsense!" Captain Interceptor shouted. "You can resolve your whiny romance drama later! We have to get out of this god-forsaken tunnel!"

"If only it were literally god-forsaken..." Haiba said. "I keep thinking Kamu'a will show his ugly mug every turn we take."

"I hate to say this," Nala said, "but considering we're in a cave littered with dinosaur bones, inside a cavern system filled with lava and scalding water, this looks like his kind of place."

"So what are we doing?" Scar asked. "I thought this lava cliff was the path we were taking."

"Patience, Scar. Patience," Hago said. "This small hole to the side is a shortcut."

"A shortcut to where?"

"To where I know the tourists are heading. They will soon come upon the domain of Kamu'a, and this hole will lead us straight to it."

"So we'll be there before they are?"

"Exactly."

"So we're just going to go through that tunnel there?" Nala asked.

"Yep," Haiba answered. "Right through that tunnel."

The tunnel was a passageway that led out of the graveyard, but all they could see on the other side was a bright red and orange glow.

"Am I the only one who thinks we're heading straight into a volcano?" Captain Interceptor asked.

"Nope," Sarafina said. "It's roasting, yo."

"I'm with you there," Haiba said.

"At least we'll be heading out of this hideous graveyard," Zazu said.

"Don't be such a baby, Zazu," Shocker said as he looked up at the bird.

"Why, I never...Cubs these days have no respect."

"You don't control me. We're both just tourists lost on a tropical island. It's not like your some king's butler or anything."

They continued to walk through the tunnel, getting closer and closer to the bright red-orange light...

"See? What did I tell you?" Interceptor said. "It's a volcano. Lava and fumes everywhere."

The captain was right. They had walked straight into a huge cavern where everything from the lava to the rocks had a bright red-orange glow. In the middle was a massive lake filled with what appeared to be boiling water.

"Man, it really is hot in here," Simba said.

"What do you expect?" Nala asked. "It's a volcano!"

"A fitting place for you to meet your end," said a familiar

booming voice from above.

The tourists looked up, and saw that standing on a high rock above the lava and boiling water was Hago, accompanied by Scar and the Mungu Pride.

"You seem surprised to see us," said Scar, cackling at the tourists below.

"How did you guys get here?" Haiba asked.

"We took a shortcut!" Hago answered. "The thing about making a home in these tunnels is that, after a while, you know every part of them like the back of your paw."

"You can't escape us now," Scar declared. "We have you cornered. Be prepared, my friends."

"Oh, no," Simba said. "The only way this can possibly get worse is if—"

Suddenly, the boiling water began to bubble and splash, and everyone – Simba, Nala, Haiba, Sarafina, Captain Interceptor, Tama, Tojo, Shocker, Wazimu, Zazu, Pori, Scar, Hago, and the Mungu Pride – watched as a massive red beast emerged from the water, roaring its challenge to all who dared oppose it.

The massive lizardlike monster with the horned crocodilian head, ember-like eyes, jagged spines, golden belly, and lava-red scales bellowed again as it advanced toward its long-delayed sacrifices.

They were in the domain of Kamu'a, and they knew that, this time, there would be no escape.

AN: Man, that was one important chapter, wasn't it? After all this time, the tension has finally built up to this – the start of the final face-off. Time for good and evil to finally clash, but who will win?

AN: Hello once more! Last week, our heroes crossed the

dinosaur graveyard and ended up walking straight into the lair of Kamu'a. Even worse, Scar, Hago, and the Mungu Pride took a shortcut, and Kamu'a himself appeared as well. Every character is in the same place, so now it's time for the first part of the final face-off! Who will succeed? Read and find out...

The Island

Chapter Thirty-Seven: Battle Atop the Rock

As the horrified tourists watched, Kamu'a continued to crawl towards them, smiling fiendishly at the prospect of finally receiving his sacrifices.

"Follow me!" Haiba cried, and he ran to the side of the high rock where Scar and the Mungu Pride stood. Digging his claws into the rock, Haiba slowly made his way up. Shocker followed him, and the other lions followed Shocker in turn.

Zazu and Pori, on the other hand, flew to the platform, keeping Scar and the deranged pride distracted.

"You can't catch me!" Pori shouted as she zipped past Hago.

"I'll find a way to get you, pesky bird!"

As Pori kept Hago distracted, Zazu did the same with Scar.

"Try and get me in your claws, scoundrel!"

Scar furiously swiped at Zazu, desperately trying to catch the hornbill.

"Stay out of this, you feathered fools!" he cried as he continued to chase the male hornbill, but both birds kept at their mission until every single lion stood atop the rock.

"Ha! Bet you didn't expect *us* to trick ya, huh?" Sarafina asked, smirking triumphantly as she, Interceptor, Wazimu, and the cubs stood in a group, facing Scar and the pride.

"But, how did you?" Scar asked.

"I have a brain, yo. But it's Haiba and the hornbills who really did it."

The hornbills remained high in the air, not wishing to be devoured by the massive molten monster below, or slashed to death in the chaos that was bound to erupt.

"Come on, guys!" Simba shouted. "Fight us like *real* lions! Give it your best shot!"

"You insolent brat," Hago said, snarling. "How dare you insult the High Priest of Kamu'a?"

Sarafina smirked. "I got a rhyme for ya. Yo, yo, yo! You suck... yo."

Hago growled again. "Such insults will get you nowhere, lioness. We shall triumph!"

Kamu'a hissed again from below, drooling as he watched the proceedings.

Simba laughed. "Ha! So a glowing lizard, a washed-up gold digger film critic, a psycho with a staff, and a bunch of mangy-looking lions are going to beat us? Puh, yeah right."

"Oh, Simba, you're never going to learn," Scar said. "Might makes right. The weak shall not survive."

With that, the red lion lunged at Simba, and the golden cub dodged out of the way as quickly as he could. Sarafina sprung at her former love, and the evil lion turned to face her. Hago raised his staff above Nala, preparing to hit her with it, but Captain Interceptor tackled him, and the two lions viciously fought.

Wazimu used what strength he had to battle Kiongozi, the strongest of the Mungu Pride, while the cubs battled with the rest of them.

Simba bit into the shoulder of Kiume, another prominent pride member, while Nala clawed at his back. Haiba, Tama, and Tojo

attacked another lion, and Shocker unleashed his electric volts upon the rest of them.

"Ha ha ha! No one messes with me and lives!" Shocker continued to fire at the Mungu lions again and again. One lion, desperately trying to escape, accidentally leapt straight off the edge into the enormous lava pool below.

"How pathetic," Shocker said. Another lion leapt at him from behind, but Shocker turned around and pressed his paw at the lion's chest before shooting electricity through the lion's system. In less than a minute, the lion fell dead.

Sarafina pinned Scar to the ground, keeping him trapped. Unfortunately, Captain Interceptor, despite his formidable strength and agility, could not keep Hago down. The evil lion scratched the captain on the cheek, and proceeded to raise his staff before beating Interceptor over the head with it. Soon, the captain fell unconscious.

Hago roared in triumph, halting the fight. The Mungu Pride turned to face their leader, allowing the cubs to jump off of them.

"Now that we have forced these infidels to submit," Hago declared, "it is time for the sacrifice at long last!"

Kamu'a smiled again, and roared triumphantly.

The tourists now realized one thing: If they were going to have any chance of escape, it was time to act. If not, they would never leave the island alive.

AN: Man, that was one big chapter, wasn't it? But fear not, dear readers! Next week's will be even bigger! It'll be the battle to end all battles. Hold onto your hats, everyone...

I'd like to give a special shout-out to the great Anthony Barletta, author of not one, but three awesome literary series: *TLKA*, *Poison*, and *Flight*. Sarafina's derisive rhyme in

today's chapter was his idea. Thank you, Anthony!

AN: Hello once more! Last week, we saw the beginning of the final face-off. Our heroes and villains fought, and Hago declared that the sacrifices would begin. So now it's time for the grand finale you've all been waiting for! It's now or never for Simba, Nala, Haiba, and everyone else...Will they succeed? Read and find out...

The Island

Chapter Thirty-Eight: The End of Kamu'a

We're doomed.

Simba stared at Hago, his eyes wide with terror, as the evil lion scanned the crowd of tourists with his eerie reptilian eyes, grinning horribly as he searched for a first sacrifice.

Simba wondered just who Hago would choose. Would it be himself? Nala? Haiba? Sarafina? The unconscious Interceptor? Tama? Tojo? Wazimu? Or one of the hornbills?

"Kamu'a has made his decision!" Hago declared. "I decree that the first sacrifice will be the lioness!"

Haiba growled and unsheathed his claws. If it was a fight Hago wanted, then that was what he would get. But before the tour guide could act, Scar pushed Sarafina off of him and leapt at Hago, clawing and roaring at the high priest.

The two lions battled like savage beasts, biting and clawing as they fought. Scar scratched Hago's left cheek, and the bulkier lion retaliated by slashing Scar's forearm. The combatants then began rolling towards the edge of the cliff, each attempting to bite the other's jugular, but neither could reach it. Hago shoved Scar off of him, and both lions stood up, now dangerously close to the cliff's edge, and the searing lava below.

"Give up, Hago," Scar said. "You will never sacrifice Sarafina to your god!"

"You can't stop Kamu'a, no matter how much you try," Hago responded. "There is no way out for your precious lioness."

"She is but a prize to me," Scar said, "and she is not a prize I am going to lose!"

Hago then attempted to bite down on Scar's jaw, but the clever lion saved himself by slashing Hago's right eye. The evil lion roared and put a paw to his eye, growling as he did so.

Scar did not waste the opportunity to run and grab Hago's golden cobra staff, which lay on the ground not too far from its owner.

"What do you think you are doing?" Hago asked.

Scar said nothing, but simply chuckled as he positioned the staff upright, now holding it as Hago himself had for so long.

"You will give me back my staff!" Hago cried, roaring as he lunged at Scar. The sly lion anticipated his move, and backed away to the very edge of the cliff, causing Hago to crash. The psychotic priest turned to see Scar and ran towards him. Scar positioned himself so his belly faced the air, and as Hago leapt above him, preparing to land, Scar grabbed the staff and drove it into Hago's chest.

Hago roared in pain as he stumbled away from Scar, clutching the staff as he teetered along the edge, and the cruel lion tumbled backwards from the cliff, plummeting towards the lava below.

"Noooooooooooooooooooo!" Hago cried as he fell, his screams not ceasing until he plunged into the lava, whereupon he vanished from sight.

Hago was gone.

Scar had watched the whole time, peering down as Hago had fallen, and now he grinned from ear to ear. He had won. He began to chuckle, and then raised his head up.

"Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!" Scar now laughed madly, savoring his victory. "No one wins against Scar! No one! Ha ha ha ha ha ha ha!"

The evil lion was too busy laughing to notice an angry Kamu'a raising himself so his head appeared above the high rock, until a venomous hissing sound echoed through the cavern.

Scar looked up, his eyes bulging in terror as Kamu'a opened up his massive jaws, filled with boiling saliva and hundreds of sharp teeth, and began to panic.

"No, no, I...Please...I...I can explain...Listen to me! I—"

The enormous god would hear no more, and grabbed Scar with his massive jaws, tossing him into the air before opening his crocodilian maw wide.

"Aaaaaaaaaaaaaah!" Scar cried as he fell into the jaws of Kamu'a. As soon as he landed in the god's mouth, Kamu'a lowered his head so that Scar would stay, and the wicked lion screamed as Kamu'a snapped his jaws shut.

To everyone's surprise, the sadistic god opened his jaws again, revealing a brutally burned and injured Scar, still screaming as he tried to escape, but the evil god opened and closed his jaws a few more times before closing them for good. When Kamu'a opened his great jaws again, it was to let out an earth-shaking roar, signifying his victory.

Nothing remained of Scar. The wicked lion was no more.

The great god's roar awakened Interceptor, who sprung to his feet before looking around.

"What did I miss?" he asked.

"Scar and Hago are dead," Haiba told him.

"Finally," Interceptor said. "Good riddance to the both of 'em."

"I know," Nala said. "I thought we'd never get rid of them."

Kamu'a roared again before grabbing onto the edge of the rock with his clawed forelegs, allowing him to extend his gigantic head closer to the lions. Before he could devour any of them as he had Scar, the whole cavern began to shake.

The entire underground system began to vibrate, rocks fell from the cavern ceiling, geysers began to spout, and the lava began to rise up.

"It's an eruption!" Haiba cried. "This whole cavern is about to be destroyed!"

Haiba ran to the edge and scrambled down just as he had climbed up, the cubs following him, and the adults following the cubs. The hornbills swooped down to join them, and the tourists ran out to the far end of the cavern, bypassing the boiling lake as they did so.

Kamu'a roared in anger upon seeing the tourists escape, and slithered after them, roaring as he did so. The Mungu Pride slid down the rock and followed their god, determined to help him.

All around the cavern, rocks continued to fall, hot red steam blasted out from the ground, and cracks appeared everywhere. Lava trickled from the walls, the existing lava pools began to rise, and new pools formed. The tourists frantically dodged these obstacles, running as fast as their legs could carry them.

Kamu'a hissed as he rushed towards his prey, the Mungu Pride closely following him.

"What do we do now?" Simba asked as they ran through the crumbling cavern.

"We have to keep running!" Haiba answered. "There'll be another staircase to lead us out! I just know it!"

The tourists continued to run, knowing that Kamu'a and the Mungu Pride were getting closer and closer. The evil god moved towards his victims, intending to kill them once and for all.

"There it is!" Haiba cried. "The staircase! I can see it from here!"

An ancient stone staircase, just like the one that had led them down into the cavern system in the first place, was visible in the distance. It would take them a while to reach it, but knowing they were close gave them hope.

Suddenly, the cavern floor immediately in front of them rose several feet into the air, leaving them at a dead end. Zazu and Pori were able to fly over to the other side, but the lions remained trapped. They turned around to see Kamu'a directly behind them, grinning viciously as he advanced toward his cornered prey.

Without warning, the raised portion of the floor went down again, and the part they all stood on rose up. Tama, Tojo, and Sarafina succeeded in jumping off, but the rocks shifted again, once again creating a wall. Kamu'a leaned in to devour the others, but the shift occurred again, this time allowing Captain Interceptor, Shocker, and Wazimu to leap off, leaving only Simba, Nala, and Haiba.

The rocky wall stayed where it was, trapping the cubs. Kamu'a opened his massive jaws wide, preparing to devour the three cubs, but the ground underneath them cracked in half, forcing the great god to straddle the crack, and Simba and Nala to stand at the opposite side from Haiba. Finally, the other rock fell to the same level, allowing the cubs to cross, but it rose up again before Kamu'a could follow them.

The tourists looked down at Kamu'a as he desperately tried to climb up the rocky wall to get at them, roaring and thrashing his massive tail, but the ground beneath him gave way, and the evil god roared one last time as he plummeted into the depths of the earth. A massive cloud of red steam shot up, obscuring their view, but then they noticed waterfalls of lava pouring from large cracks in the walls, as well as the walls themselves crumbling and falling into the hole where Kamu'a had been. The

chasm quickly filled up with lava and rocks, burying Kamu'a completely.

The tourists could see the Mungu Pride standing at the other side of the chasm, and knew they had no way of getting across. Knowing this, they turned and ran madly towards the staircase. Small steam geysers erupted from the ground, and little cracks in the floor began to appear. The walls of the entire cavern, at both sides of the chasm, cracked and began to release torrents of lava, and the ground where the tourists ran broke up into fragments, some pieces falling into the quickly rising lava below.

At long last, the tourists reached the staircase, struggling to make room as the ground around them crumbled. Zazu and Pori flew up and out of the hole, and Haiba took the lead. Interceptor followed him up the stairs, then Sarafina and Wazimu, and the cubs, with Shocker once again at the back. They all raced up the stone steps, scarcely caring that the ground they had stood on moments ago was now nothing but molten lava.

Haiba clambered out of the hole and reached the surface at last, sitting in the grass next to the hole as Interceptor and Sarafina came up. Wazimu struggled up the steps, but Interceptor and Sarafina quickly pulled him out. Simba and Nala were quick to appear, followed by Tama, Tojo, and at last, Shocker. Just as the electric cub made his last steps out of the hole, the ancient stone staircase crumbled to bits and tumbled into the lava below.

The tourists decided to lie down and relax, glad to be at the surface again. Given that it was the middle of the night, in the depths of the thick jungle, with a purple starry sky just barely visible, the fiery glow of the lava in the hole was the only light they had, so they decided to stick close to it.

Simba, ever the adventurer, decided to get up and walk back towards the hole, and Nala joined him.

"Well, that's it," Simba said as he stared down into the hole. "The cavern is gone, the Mungu Pride's gone, and so is Kamu'a."

Nala asked, "How are you so sure he's gone? He obviously can survive extreme heat."

Wazimu walked towards the two cubs. "That may be so, but consider this: Lava cools and hardens into rock. Even if Kamu'a survived being buried under volumes of lava, the entire cavern system appears to have been consumed. When it cools into rock, there will be almost no trace of it. So even if he survived, he's trapped in there."

"So he won't be able to escape," Simba said.

"And all his worshippers are gone," Nala added. "And gods thrive on worship, so..."

"So that means he's gone," Haiba said from behind. "He's gone for good."

Everyone, even Shocker, smiled at this. The realization had dawned upon them all.

A massive, primordial god, possibly millions of years old and seemingly unstoppable, and with an army of worshippers ready to fight for him, had been defeated by a small group of ordinary lions—and a pair of hornbills.

And he would never rise again.

AN: Man, that was one thrilling ride, wasn't it? Evil has been defeated at last, and in oh-so-satisfying ways. Things have finally turned around for our heroes, and a happy ending awaits. But don't worry, you've still got two more sweet chapters before we say goodbye. After all, our heroes are still in the middle of the jungle...

AN: Hello once more! Last week, our heroes engaged in the grand final battle against Kamu'a, Scar, Hago, and the Mungu

Pride, and came out on top. All they have to worry about now is finding their way out of the jungle and back to that nice little motel. Can they make it? Read and find out...

The Island

Chapter Thirty-Nine: Out of the Jungle

The morning sun rose over the jungle, bathing it in a beautiful light, just as it always did. As Nala opened her eyes, she couldn't help but feel that the jungle felt...different this morning.

It's more peaceful, she thought. It feels safe.

The sense of dread that hanged over the jungle ever since the tourists first ventured into it was now gone. It had been replaced by a feeling of calmness and tranquility.

Simba then woke up, accidentally whacking Nala's side with his paw as he stretched. Nala chuckled as she watched her husband slowly climb to his paws.

"Morning, Nala."

"Heh heh...Morning, Simba."

The two cubs sat next to each other, their tails intertwined as they watched the others sleeping. Captain Interceptor slept on his stomach, with Zazu and Pori perched on a tree branch above him. Tama and Tojo slept beside each other, while Shocker slept a fair distance away from them.

"Isn't it funny how little lightning bolts come out of his nostrils when he snores?"

"He used to do that all the time, Simba. You're quite a snorer yourself, you know."

They shifted their gaze to Wazimu, who lay on his stomach, and finally to Sarafina, who held Haiba close to her chest with a paw.

"Aw, aren't they such a sweet couple?" Nala asked.

"She's better off with him than that slimeball Scar."

"You said it, Simba."

Roughly an hour later, everyone had woken up, and the entire group was listening to Haiba as he stood on a small rock.

"I think it's high time we make our way back. I'll tell you something – you guys have seen a lot more than any other group I've had."

"Oh, couldn't we stay a little longer?" Simba asked, smiling at Haiba with puppy-dog eyes.

"You guys have lives to get back to," Haiba said. "You can't just stay here forever – except for Interceptor and my sweet Sarafina, obviously." He flashed his trademark cheesy grin at the lioness, and she gave him a playful smirk in return.

"Do you mind if I stay for a while as well?" Wazimu asked. "I don't believe I'm quite done with studying this island."

"All right," Haiba said. "You can stay with Interceptor, Sarafina and myself for as long as necessary. You were pretty useful on this tour, so you might actually be a welcome addition for the next group."

"Thank you, Haiba. You won't regret it, my friend."

Haiba smiled and nodded at the scientist before turning to address the crowd once more.

"Well, with that settled, let's go!"

The tourists began walking through the lush green jungle, smiling as they beheld its beauty. For the first time in a long while, they were able to truly appreciate it.

"Aw, man, this is awesome," Simba said as he looked around him. "Nala, can we move to Hawaii?"

"Sure we can," she answered, smiling at him. "I never liked that dull little suburb anyway."

"Thanks, Nala." The cub then nuzzled his wife's neck, causing her to purr.

"Well, isn't that sweet?" Shocker said, smirking at them.

"Shocker, back off," Simba said, snarling at the electric cub.

"Simba, let me handle this," Nala said. She walked towards Shocker as Simba watched. "Shocker, do you remember *why* we broke up?"

"Yeah. You were always nagging me. 'Stop yelling at the neighbors!' 'Go take a shower and clean yourself up!' 'Be nice to the supermarket cashiers!' 'Calm down and stop freaking out!' 'Quit shooting lightning bolts at the cars passing by our house!' 'Get out of that hammock and drive to the supermarket!' 'Don't be mean to that little old lady!' 'Do this!' 'Stop that!' Day after day after day!"

"Exactly," Nala said. "Do you really want to go through all that *again*?"

Shocker stopped to think. "Um...Well, you're still really pretty... but..."

"I'll take that as a no," she said. "Now get off our case."

Sarafina smiled as Shocker, tail between his legs, walked away. *You go, girl.*

Several days passed as the group made its way through the jungles of Kadalo Island. The trip was largely uneventful, apart from a few fleeting glimpses of allosaurs, but the prehistoric predators seemed content to go about their business and leave the tourists alone.

Finally, one afternoon, as the tourists wandered the jungle, Tojo suddenly cried out, "I see it! I see it!"

The others immediately saw what he was looking at. The Kadalo Island Hotel, that trio of large white buildings with black roofs, was visible in the distance.

"Hooray! We're here!" The tourists cried.

Haiba sighed, and smiled lovingly at Sarafina. "Home sweet home."

"Yeah," the lioness said, smiling as she beheld her new home. "Home sweet home."

"Yeah," the lioness said, smiling as she beheld her new home. "Home sweet home."

AN: And so our tourists are out of the jungle and back at the motel! Nice to see that little loose end with Shocker taken care of, and in a surprisingly peaceful manner too. Bet none of you expected that, eh? Maybe he's not so determined to get Nala back as he thought...

AN: Hello once more! Last week, our heroes made their way through the jungle over a period of several days, Nala finally put Shocker in his place, and they arrived at the Kadalo Island Hotel at last. Well, it's been a long ride, but alas, it is time for the story to end. What will happen in this final chapter? For the last time, read and find out...

The Island

Chapter Forty: Heading Home

As soon as the group reached the door of the motel, Haiba knocked. The knob turned, and Bora opened the door. The tour guide looked to see who had knocked, and his eyes widened in shock. It couldn't be. Haiba, Captain Interceptor, and some of the tourists from their group? They'd been missing for ages. There was no way they could still be alive. But here they were, alive and well.

"Haiba?" he asked, wondering if what he saw was a hallucination.

"The one and only!" Haiba answered proudly. "And Captain Interceptor, and the tourists too!"

"There's a lot less than I remember..."

"Yeah...We lost some of them."

Bora nodded understandingly before beckoning the group in with a paw. As soon as the group entered, Bora closed the door behind them. Captain Shauri, who had been sitting at the table, gasped upon seeing them.

"Whoa, dude!" he cried. "You guys are still alive? Right on!"

"We'll tell you the whole story at dinner," Haiba said. "But before we all settle down and relax in our rooms, there's something we need to do."

"What?" Simba asked.

"We've been in that jungle for a while," Haiba said. "We all could use a wash. *Especially* you, Shocker."

The blond cub growled at Haiba, and Simba's eyes bulged in terror.

"Come on, everyone! The spa area is right over here!"

"Come on, Tama! It's fun!"

"But Tojo, it's been less than a year!"

Tojo was already swimming in one of the spa pools, trying to get Tama to join him, but she only stood next to it.

"Tama, I didn't say anything this whole trip, did I?"

"I'm not going in, Tojo."

"Oh, yes you are," Sarafina said from behind, just before shoving Tama into the pool with her paw.

As Tama coughed and spluttered, Sarafina turned to her. "Don't mess with Sarafina, yo."

Simba and Nala stood at the edge of another one of the pools. Simba, who had accumulated plenty of dirt during their long stay in the jungle, stood a fair distance from the pool, with Nala behind him.

"Simba, remember when I last made you bathe? We were home. I didn't make you do it at the Grand Lands Motel, I didn't make you do it here, and I didn't make you swim in any of the streams in the jungle. It's time."

"But Nala!"

"No buts. Get in there."

The cub didn't move. Finally, Nala moved in front of him.

"Why don't you join me?" she asked, brushing her tail against his face.

Nothing more needed to be said. She plunged into the pool, and he soon followed her. The two swam through the pool, splashing each other playfully.

By this time, only one individual had not so much as touched the water: Shocker.

"Ha! If Haiba thinks he can make *me* bathe, he's wrong."

Haiba, who had already exited the pool, smirked as he watched from behind. He turned to an open door and beckoned with a claw, prompting several lionesses to enter the room.

As Shocker turned and walked towards the exit, the lionesses surrounded him. The cub tried his best to escape, but the lionesses had him cornered. One of them grabbed him by the scruff, and the whole group walked towards an empty pool.

Shocker kicked and squirmed, trying desperately to escape, but it was no use. Several of the lionesses jumped into the pool,

and the lioness with Shocker in her mouth dropped the cub into the water.

Shocker quickly resurfaced, coughing and spluttering, and as he tried to make his way to the edge and clamber out of the pool, the swimming lionesses grabbed him. One of them snatched a bottle of body wash and poured it onto the struggling cub, ignoring his angry cries.

"Get off me! No! NO!" he cried as the lionesses scrubbed him thoroughly with the body wash, leaving no part of him untouched, before one of the lionesses grabbed a glass pitcher, lowered it into the water, and lifted it back up before pouring the contents onto him.

Once the body wash was cleaned off, one of the lionesses grabbed a shampoo bottle and began lathering Shocker with the shampoo. Another lioness took the bottle and poured the shampoo onto Shocker's tuft before scrunching it. She then grabbed the pitcher, scooped up some water, and poured it onto Shocker's head, rinsing the soap out of his tuft.

As soon as the lionesses finished lathering him with the shampoo, they grabbed the pitcher, scooped up the water, and rinsed him off. After that, they grabbed several washcloths and lowered them into the water before rubbing him with them.

Finally, the lionesses hauled themselves and Shocker out of the pool. The fuming cub shook himself, splattering the lionesses, but they ignored it and dried him off with a green towel much larger than himself. They then began combing his fur, prompting him to growl, before Haiba showed up with a hairbrush.

"And now, for the finishing touch!" With that, the tour guide began to comb Shocker's tuft as the lionesses continued to brush him.

At last, Haiba and the lionesses put down their combs, and the lionesses walked away. For the first time in a long time, Shocker

was completely clean.

Haiba flashed his cheesy grin at the newly-bathed cub. "See? That wasn't so bad, was it?"

Shocker's snarl told him otherwise.

Captain Interceptor stood outside the spa room, watching as everyone walked out. His attention soon fell on Shocker, the last to walk out.

The captain chuckled upon seeing him. "My, my...Now *you* look different, don't ya?"

The cub's paws crackled with electricity, prompting the lion to speed away...

That night, after dinner, Haiba and Bora sat at the table. During dinner, the group had told Bora and Shauri the entire story of what had transpired in the jungle.

"It's nice to know Kamu'a and those Mungu lions got what was coming to them," Bora said. "I wish I'd been able to see it myself."

"Yeah...But what about the victims?"

"We're gonna have to take care of that pretty soon. Tell their families, help them get their affairs in order, you know."

"What about Scar?"

"He'll be the toughest of them all. Especially since you're marrying his fiancée."

"Ex-fiancée. She broke it off before he died. Remember?"

"Yes, but nobody outside this island knows any of this yet. It's going to be a long process, Haiba."

"Yeah, I know. But Sarafina is worth every bit of it."

The next morning, Haiba, Interceptor, Sarafina, and the tourists —sans Professor Wazimu—headed to the door. It was time to go home.

"Well, are we all ready?" Haiba asked.

"Yep!" the tourists cried.

Simba turned to Wazimu. "It's been a pleasure knowing you. I hope you rewrite the books with what you find here."

"Oh, I will, Simba," the old scientist said. "I know I will."

With that, the group turned around and walked out the door of the Kadalo Island Hotel. Bora, Captain Shauri, and Wazimu waved as the tourists slowly vanished from sight.

An hour later, Haiba, Captain Interceptor, and Sarafina had led the tourists through the jungle, and they now stood at the exact same beach where they had arrived. The sandy beach and crashing waves were a truly fantastic sight, and just beyond the narrow wooden pier, that beautiful blue and white sailboat with the bright blue sails, the *Adventure Queen*, sat waiting.

"Ah, the love of my life," Captain Interceptor said, sighing as he beheld his boat again for the first time in a long while.

Haiba smiled at the tour group. "Well, it's been a pleasure having you around. I'm gonna miss you guys."

"We'll miss you too, Haiba," Tojo said.

With that, Captain Interceptor hopped onto the pier and began to walk towards the boat. Tama and Tojo followed him, along with Shocker, Zazu, and Pori. Simba and Nala walked up to the pier, but turned around to say goodbye to Haiba and Sarafina.

"Bye, Haiba," Simba said. "You gave us an unforgettable honeymoon."

"Thanks," Haiba said, flashing his cheesy grin. "I try my best!"

Sarafina smiled at them. "Take care, yo."

Nala smiled back. "See you in the movies!" she said as she sprinted with Simba to the boat.

Haiba and Sarafina smiled as they watched the happy couple bounding along to the boat, and as the *Adventure Queen* set sail, they nuzzled and walked back into the jungle.

As the boat sped away from the island, Simba and Nala turned around for one last look at Kadalo in all its splendor.

"Look, Nala!" Simba cried.

Striding along the beach was a gigantic Allosaurus, just as when they had arrived. It swayed its tail slowly as it raised its great head to the sky and roared.

Simba grabbed his camera and snapped a photo of the majestic creature, and then watched it until it could be seen no more.

It was late afternoon when the *Adventure Queen* arrived back in the Sulawesi port, and after the tourists climbed off the metal ramp that led from the boat to the dock, they turned around to wave goodbye to the captain.

"You were a great group, laddies!" he told them as he revved up the boat. "I'm glad you enjoyed your time. Now it's time for me to head back to the island! *I like it!*"

And with that, the boat sailed off, and the tourists watched it as it sped away into the horizon.

Zazu and Pori turned to the five lion cubs. "It's been a joy, hasn't it, Zuby?"

"Oh, yes, Pori. For all the things that went wrong, it has indeed been a joy."

He then turned towards Simba, putting his wings on the cub's shoulders. "Simba, Nala, good luck."

With that, the two hornbills took to the sky and flew away, leaving only Simba, Nala, Tama, Tojo, and Shocker.

The electric cub turned to face Simba and Nala. "It was nice to see you again, Nala."

"Wow, that's the first time I've ever heard you use the word 'nice' and not recoil in disgust," Nala said.

"Yeah...You were right, Nala. It was never going to work. You're still the most beautiful cub I've ever met, though."

"Thanks, Shocker."

Shocker paused, and smiled awkwardly at them. "Well, I'm not good with this mushy stuff. I've got my own life to live. I've got birds to fry, neighbors to yell at, and a nice little hammock that's been calling my name. See ya!"

Shocker bounded away, and the cubs watched him as he vanished into the distant crowd.

"You know," Simba said, "he's not as bad as I thought."

"Nope," Nala said. "He's getting better...but you'll always be the best."

The next day, Simba, Nala, Tama, and Tojo once again found themselves flying on Jowai Airlines. They had boarded the previous night, so it would be pitch black when they arrived at their destination.

"Feels weird to be back here, doesn't it?" Nala asked Simba as she sipped out of her cup of water.

"You bet it does," he said, looking out the window and down at the ocean below.

"Simba, look!" Nala said, pointing to the in-flight movie screen.

"Wait, Sarafina's in this movie, isn't she?"

"Yeah, remember? It's the one where she and that detective try

to take down a criminal empire."

"Oh, yeah – that one's awesome!"

The cubs sat back and watched the film, thoroughly entertained by seeing their friend on the screen as the plane cruised over the wide open sea.

That night, the plane finally landed at the airport, and the passengers gradually disembarked. Simba, Nala, Tama, and Tojo walked out together as they entered the inside of the airport again.

"It was really awesome getting to know you guys," Nala said.

"The pleasure's all ours," said Tojo. "Isn't that right, Tama?"

"Yep. We'll keep in touch!"

After waving goodbye to Simba and Nala, Tama and Tojo walked away, gradually disappearing among the vast crowd of animals.

"Well, Nala," Simba said, "it's time to get our bags and go home."

It was well past 9:00 at night when Simba and Nala finally entered their home once again. Everything was just as it had been, and neither cub would have wanted it to be any different.

"Man, that is one trip I will never forget," Simba said as he and Nala sat down on the sofa.

"Me neither."

"Beautiful jungles, awesome companions, dinosaurs..."

"It was all wonderful, Simba."

"Yeah. I don't think I'll ever look at seafood the same way again."

"I'm with you there. I don't think I'll be eating shrimp or calamari for a while. Those sea monsters were way too big for

my liking."

"And the dinosaurs...Going to a museum will be different from now on. We know what some of those animals really looked like, so now we're experts."

"As for Scar, Hago, and Kamu'a...I never want to meet anyone like them ever again."

"Even if we do, I'll be there. I won't ever let anything happen to you, Nala."

"And I won't let anything happen to you."

Simba smiled and nuzzled her, before asking, "So what about that move to Hawaii?"

"We'll do it, Simba. It'll take a little time, though."

"Yeah...I can wait."

"It'll be awesome, though."

"Yeah. It'll be awesome."

With that, Simba licked Nala on the cheek, and the tired cubs fell asleep on the sofa in a tight embrace.

Through the whole journey, the two cubs had learned something. The strongest force on earth wasn't nature, lightning, dinosaurs, or even an unstoppable god.

Love. Love was the strongest force.

And that would never change.

The End

AN: And so our long, thrilling ride has come to an end. *The Island* is over. What can I say? It's been one of the most enjoyable writing experiences I've ever had. Working with Anthony's unique and wonderful characters has been a true joy, and I hope I have the opportunity to continue doing so for a

very long time.

The main reason I wrote this story is because many of the professional projects I've worked on follow similar plotlines or contain similar ideas. I figured I would test my formula with a group of established characters and a fanbase that has supported my work for a long time, and what a beautiful result we've had. I've greatly appreciated all of your reviews, and it pleases me to no end that you all enjoyed this story.

I've been working on this story since the beginning of January, so for it to finally end feels very strange. I'll be turning 19 tomorrow, so I suppose my mind will be occupied with other things for the time being.

But sadly, most good things must come to an end. You may all be echoing Winnie the Pooh's question, "Can't we just start over at the beginning?" Now that you have a completed story, you are welcome to do just that as many times as you wish.

I greatly look forward to those nice, long concluding reviews you'll be leaving for me, and be sure to tune in next week for a final treat – a special behind-the-scenes peak behind the story, its influences, characters, and of course, its monsters.

So farewell, and thank you very much for reading *The Island*.

– Anonymous13 B

AN: Well, last week, you guys got to read the very last chapter of *The Island*, thereby ending the story. But, as I said that day, you guys would be receiving one more treat today – a special behind-the-scenes peek at the story behind the story. So without further ado, I give you...

The Story Behind the Story: The Making of *The Island*

Like any large-scale story, *The Island* was the product of various ideas and influences, many of which were key to the story's development. Of course, like any story, the first part was inspiration.

Initial Inspiration

Every story has something that sparks it. In the case of *The Island*, a few different factors came into play. In late 2013, around November and some of December, I was working on a novel of mine with some similar concepts. Shortly before Christmas, the initial idea of the various *TLKA* characters stranded on a monster-infested island came to me. However, it was the day after *Haiba Kong*, Anthony's final piece of fanfiction, was posted that I finally decided to get working on it.

Creating the Characters

Formulating the storyline of *The Island* required casting the classic characters of *The Lion King Adventures* and *Poison* into new roles that suited the type of story being told. I immediately decided on a setup similar to *The Haiba Mystery*, where the animal characters looked the same as ever but lived like humans, and cub characters could function in an adult manner. This allowed for the casting of Simba and Nala as newlyweds looking for a nice honeymoon. They were there from the beginning, and the various other characters came gradually.

Haiba's casting as the tour guide proved significant, as it allowed for him to possess the knowledge and charisma characteristic of real-life tour guides, and it placed him in an extremely key role. It also allowed for him to be one of the emotional anchors of the story, due to the entire group's safety being on his shoulders. Also, I had always wanted to see Haiba and Sarafina as a couple, and I knew this would be the perfect venue for it.

Interceptor's role as the boat captain was loosely inspired by Frank Reicher's character of Captain Englehorn in *King Kong* (1933). Interceptor's charismatic and humorous personality lent itself to a more unique and amusing character than Reicher's more conventional captain. His sarcastic comments throughout were a true joy to write.

Sarafina's role in the story was partly inspired by a plotline I

had wanted to utilize in a story for quite some time. The idea of an ordinary individual falling for a famous actress and winning over her unpleasant boyfriend was a concept I had originally placed in a scrapped project that never went beyond the initial idea. Sarafina lent herself to this role wonderfully, and my goal throughout was to retain as much of her *Poison* characterization as possible, while bringing in some of her *TLKA* traits as well.

Unsurprisingly, this determined the role that Scar would ultimately play in the plot. The idea of him as a cunning individual who tried to woo Sarafina for her wealth felt perfectly in-character for Scar, and making him a film critic by profession allowed me to unleash my own complaints regarding people in that profession in a creative and hopefully effective manner. The decision to have Scar cause the split in the group came fairly early on, and was designed as a way to shake things up and worsen the situation for the characters.

Shocker, Hila, and Moto were key characters throughout, and the evolution they went through proved a nice surprise for me. The decision to have Shocker and Hila as a pair of spiteful ex-boyfriends trying to get Nala back felt like a natural role for them, given that both characters demonstrated interest in her in the source material. This also allowed for them to function as Scar's willing lackeys for a good portion of the story, an aspect that made the villains feel more united. Moto's role basically wrote itself, since the character already functioned perfectly in the anthropomorphized world presented, and because he was such a rich and comic personality in *Poison*. Writing for him was among the most enjoyable aspects of writing the story for me, so much so that I initially considered letting him live.

Ultimately, I decided that it would be Shocker who lived instead. Shocker's character evolution throughout the story is probably one of its most unique aspects, and it was not something I had initially planned. As the story evolved, Shocker gradually shifted from a full-on villain to more and more of an anti-hero, which, combined with the enjoyment I got from writing his character, allowed him to survive the story.

Hago and the Mungu Pride were vital to the story as well, as they served a direct connection to the primary antagonist, the god Kamu'a. The Mungu Pride was a natural for this story, since hostile native tribes are a tried-and-true staple of jungle adventure stories. Hago's role as their High Priest was only natural, given his history as a sorcerer in the original *TLKA* canon, as well as the fact that he took control of the Mungu Pride in the story *Tama's Trouble*. Additionally, he served as a window into the mind of Kamu'a, which was important given the beast's role as the story's main villain. The first scene with the native pride, as well as the sacrifice scene where Kamu'a debuts, are both directly inspired by similar scenes present in *Kong*.

Wazimu's role as professor was also essential, though for a different reason. Given his role as a scientist in *TLKA*, it was no question that he would serve the key role of scientist and prehistory expert so common in stories of this type. Another common character archetype in the monster genre, the scientist is usually present to reveal the names of species and explain key scientific facts. Wazimu was perfect for this role, and given his popularity among *TLKA* fans despite making only rare appearances, giving him such a large role was hopefully a treat you all appreciated.

Tama and Tojo, as well as Zazu and Pori, were supporting characters designed to round out the crowd, alongside the various one-note monster victims such as Binamu, Tara, and others.

Kazi's role as the demanding travel agent in Chapter 2 served both to provide comedy and establish Simba and Nala's personalities. For a character who only made one appearance throughout this lengthy story, he was a true joy to write.

Various minor characters, such as Bora, Shauri, Hapana, and the Jowai Lionesses were placed in roles that I felt suited them best. A special mention goes to the briefly-mentioned presence of Shenzi, Banzai, and Ed as TSA agents, who are never seen,

but merely discussed by Simba and Nala after having dealt with the trio. This was a small moment most likely forgotten in the chaos and excitement of most of the story, but it was a moment I enjoyed writing.

The Setting

Kadalo Island, the titular locale, was a complex creation in and of itself, though it was largely based on the real-life Komodo Island, home of the famous Komodo Dragons. The name itself came from the Indonesian word "Kadal", meaning "Lizard". There is no question that the moody descriptions of the majestic yet ominous jungle owe a great debt to the cinematic presence of *King Kong's* Skull Island, but many of the details of the island, such as the pink sand, as well as the look of the hotel, were very much influenced by the actual Komodo Island.

The story's very first chapter, where Simba and Nala examine Kadalo Island's Wikitravel page, was inspired by the site's actual page for Komodo Island. Naturally, the fictitious Kadalo is an exaggerated version of the already spectacular Komodo.

Creature Feature: The Monsters of Kadalo Island

Given the story's nature as an adventure epic with dinosaurs and other spectacular creatures, it is only natural that these beasts be discussed in detail.

Kamu'a, the starring monster and primary villain, is a wholly fictitious creature, owing to his status as a ferocious lava god. Loosely inspired by the Fire Monster from *The Lost World* (1960), which was only a live monitor lizard with horns and fins glued to its body, Kamu'a was conceived as a more elaborate version of the concept. Designed to resemble a mix between a Komodo Dragon and a crocodile, with obvious embellishments such as the glowing lava body and multiple horns on its head, Kamu'a is easily one of my proudest creations, and would almost certainly look impressive on a theater screen. However, I do not remember how I came up with the monster's name. Nonetheless, he seems to have been

an extremely successful villain, thrilling and terrifying you all throughout.

The other key creatures in the story were the Allosaurs, which, unlike Kamu'a, were a real species millions of years ago. Allosaurus was the top predator of its time, and was essentially a slimmer, somewhat smaller version of the ever-famous Tyrannosaurus Rex. Allosaurus has appeared on screen several times, usually as a substitute for Tyrannosaurus. For the purposes of this story, I modeled their appearance and behavior on Komodo Dragons, and just like the Allosaurus striding along the beach, it is a fairly common sight to see the ten-foot lizards doing just that. The brief scene of the Allosaurs devouring a beached whale carcass was inspired by a rather striking image of a group of Komodo Dragons eating a beached dolphin.

The Giant Shrimp, the first creature to attack the tourists, was another important enemy in the story. A tribute to the giant crab from *Mysterious Island* (1961), the crustacean serves as an unusual first adversary, and something different from the other monsters in the story. It holds a distinction as the cause of the story's first fatality when it drags Tuhuma under the waves. Crustaceans have always fascinated me, so I am pleased to have incorporated one into the story in this fashion.

The Pteranodons were a mandatory inclusion, given their common role in dinosaur-themed stories. The scene where they attack the tourists in a huge flock served as a memorable introduction to the species. As to why I made them yellow, I figured it would be good to give them a unique color scheme. The scene in the temple where a Pteranodon tries to carry off Sarafina, only to be foiled by Haiba, was inspired by the common image of a Pteranodon carrying off a human, perhaps made most famous in *One Million Years B.C.* (1966), where the lovely Raquel Welch was the intended victim.

The Triceratops was another mandatory inclusion, given that this dinosaur is probably the most famous aside from Tyrannosaurus. The three-horned beast's rampage was another

story highlight, and it ended up bearing plot significance, as its killing of Binamu provided Scar with the perfect pretense to shame Haiba and take control of the tour group. The orange color scheme was inspired by an antique book of mine that depicts the animal with this color. The aggressive nature of the beast is in line with modern herbivores such as hippos, a species known to attack and kill humans with little to no provocation.

The role of the Brachiosaurus, an enormous beast related to the familiar Brontosaurus, was primarily to demonstrate the power of Kamu'a. Brachiosaurus was one of the largest dinosaurs, and is most likely familiar to the general population as the towering dinosaur in the famous "Welcome to Jurassic Park" scene. Because of the impact of that scene, and how impressive such an animal would be even without it, it was the perfect choice to show off the sheer power and deadliness of the similarly-sized Kamu'a, and the only creature that could go toe-to-toe with the mighty god.

The sequence in the swamp where the plesiosaur attacks Scar's group was inspired by the brontosaur attack in *King Kong* (1933), one of the strongest highlights of that film. Plesiosaurs were the archetypal marine reptiles with long necks and flippers, and although they are famous as the common explanation for sightings of monsters in Loch Ness and other lakes, these reports were not my source for the design and coloration of the swamp-dwelling creature in the story. I instead based it on a yellow-bellied sea snake, a creature of tropical Pacific seas that is mostly dark brown but has a striking golden underside. This set a realistic precedent for its appearance and tied it further to the Indonesian setting.

The Stegosaurus chase was another sequence loosely inspired by the animal's role in *King Kong* (1933). A few bits of dialogue are references to the film scene, but the way the tourists defeat the animal is drastically different. The stegosaur in *Kong* is close to my heart, as I own a cast of the original puppet's head.

Thus, I decided to pay tribute to the creature and scene by paying homage to it here. The sequence where the Stegosaurus and Allosaurus battle to the death in the Temple of Kamu'a was inspired by a proposed sequence in the abandoned film *Creation* (1931), as was the concept of the temple itself. The battle was one of the most exciting scenes to write, and I was quite pleased to see that you all found it such a standout.

The Giant Cuttlefish, like the Giant Shrimp, was a tribute to the film *Mysterious Island* (1961). In that film, a giant creature resembling a nautilus is the climactic adversary. I opted for a cuttlefish because they are native to tropical seas, and because squid and octopi appear in fiction much more often. Cuttlefish, like their more famous cousins, are exceptionally fascinating, and I am quite honored to have been able to observe live specimens of these creatures several times.

The Carnivorous Plant, the last new creature to appear, was another element that tied this story to other examples in the genre. At least one Victorian natural history book I own describes a man-eating tree, and other similarly sinister plants have been a staple of fiction. Unsurprisingly, the fact that the plant strangles Moto is a nod to his demise in *Poison*. Notably, the plant is the only character aside from a nameless member of the Mungu Pride to be killed by Shocker's lightning powers.

Closing Thoughts

The Island was a tremendous joy to write, and it remains a story I am most proud of. Everything from the plotline, to the characters, to the vicious beasts that inhabited the island, came together in a way I remain quite pleased by, and if the reviews are any indication, it seems that this is true for all of you as well.

Before I leave off, here is a list of films recommended for readers that enjoyed *The Island*:

The Lost World (1925)

King Kong (1933)

The Lost World (1960)

Mysterious Island (1961)

One Million Years B.C. (1966)

Jurassic Park (1993)

The Lion King (1994)

Journey 2: The Mysterious Island (2012)

AN: Well, that's it for *The Island*. Be sure to leave a review and tell me what your favorite facts were!

And once again, thank you very much for enjoying the story.

– Anonymous13 B